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THE PULPIT.

GOSPEL IN THE TREES.

THE MYRTLE TREE: Sermon Preached by Rev. Alex. Clark, Pastor First Methodist Church, January 12, 1868.

Subjoined is a sermon on "The Myrtle Tree," one of the series of "Gospel in the Trees," preached by Rev. Alexander Clark, last Sabbath evening, January 12th, to a large congregation in the First Methodist Church, Pittsburgh. These eloquent sermons are being published in handsome book form by a Philadelphia publisher, and deserve to meet with an extensive circulation:

TEXT.—Then by night, and behold, a man riding upon a red horse, and he stood among the myrtle trees that were in the bottom.—Zech. i. 8.

The first portrayal of this inspired and eloquent teacher opens upon a grove of myrtle trees clustered in the valley. The picture is outlined by surrounding hills in the dim distance, by night; and a changeful mingling of shadows and starlight among the swaying branches, gives life to the scene. The lowly myrtles, trembling in the night-wind, veiled by the darkness, unprotected by watchmen or walls, but standing silent in the gloom, and obscure in the valley, impressively represented the solitary and pitiable condition of the Jewish Church in the time of the prophet.

But this is only the background of the picture. The center and glory of the vision is the man riding on a red horse, pausing, standing still in the midst of the myrtle trees, as if he had come to remain, to protect, to endure, to drive away the shadows, and illumine the valley! If the myrtle trees symbolize the Church in the days of adversity, the rider upon the red horse symbolizes the man, Christ Jesus, the same who appeared to Joshua, with drawn sword in his hand, as the Captain of the host of the Lord, the same who appeared to John, long years thereafter, the Rider with the bow and the crown, going forth conquering and to conquer.

Although the Church was weak, despised and desolate, Christ was nevertheless seen in the midst of it, prepared for conflict, to bear in his own body, the suffering that should bring liberty and peace, and resting upon the shaded myrtle grove, and beholding the strange phenomenon there, how forcefully the language of Isaiah sounds on the ear! "Who is this that comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? This that is glorious in his apparel, traveling in the greatness of his strength?"

* * * * * * *

The man upon the red horse clearly signifies Christ the Deliverer of the Church; and the myrtle trees grouped in the valley represent the saints of God, the immortal children of the eternal God, but risen and glorified.

The myrtle, among the Jews, was an emblem of justice. The Greeks and Romans dedicated it to Venus; and used it to make wreaths to crown accepted lovers, and to decorate the brows of successful contestants in the race.

It is a diminutive tree, almost a shrub; but it grows from a hard, woody root, with an upright stem, branching freely and forming a dense, round foliage of ovate and somewhat evergreen leaves. It flowers profusely in star-like clusters of snowy white, fringed with tints of delicate purple. Its berries are aromatic and astringent, and have been celebrated by the ancient poets as possessing a peculiar medicinal property efficacious in healing the maladies incident to the climate where it grows. Its fruit produces both wine and oil, and is, in either form, the object of delicate luxury among the people of the East.

The myrtle is most beautiful when small, standing in its youthful vigor as a mere shrub, with elastic branches and glowing leaves; for when it rises to the dignity of a tree, and overshadowed by the thick top, lose their leaves, roughen in bark, and become unsightly in appearance.

In the valleys, myrtles grow among laurel roses to the height of twelve and fifteen feet; and when in bloom are surpassingly beautiful. The perfume of the myrtle is richer than that of the rose, enchanting every one, and filling the soul with delightful emotions, such as are inspired by no other aroma in the world.

1. *The Myrtle Tree Grows in Groups.* A single root has sufficient vitality to send forth, at different points through the sod, a number of stalks or stems, each of which will become a distinct tree, deriving all the sap it requires, growing as one of a cluster of trunks from the same support. It will wither and die, if an attempt be made to cultivate it as a single myrtle tree, separate and alone. It grows best in the influence of surrounding myrtles. It will readily divide its own root-sustenance to maintain and mature kindred trees by its side, to grow up into the same sunlight, and wave, and blast fragrance through the same free air. If it would be appropriate in speaking of an inanimate thing, to say it, the myrtle might well be called the most unselfish of trees! For it flourishes best when in the midst of kindred myrtles, and it seems ever growing and glowing the more beautifully when touching its glossy leaves against the leaves of adjacent myrtles, a dense grove of them standing and waving we come to one and all from every branch, and whispering sweet sisterhood in every leaf by day and night.

So do the saints of God on earth best develope their thoughts and affections by association. The Christian is pre-eminently a social being; and his faith and work require a constant fellowship of heart and mind and soul. No man can be a prosperous Christian, shut out of the world as a monk; and no woman can fill her appointed sphere in grace by vowing herself into a nunnery, and living apart from the church of the common people. The true disciples of the Lord Jesus are intuitively drawn towards each other, and are most truly happy as when in hand-shaking proximity, and mingling their voices in prayer and praise; or, seated together in the sanctuary as a company with mutual rights and kindred interests, receiving lessons of divine truth from the book. * * * *

The establishment of the Christian Church is to group the true-hearted and like-minded together for mutual edification, enjoyment and growth. It is to bind as a family all the faithful in any community, and to thus develope the capacities of all by instituting a fraternal brotherhood of heart, in which all Christ's friends shall be equal in right and privilege.

The Church is a salt-preserving and healing Christian people in this relation. They are not all like the myrtles, satisfied with their grouping, and forever growing grander and nearer to each other in the connection which God has instituted. There is a natural disposition to group with the world; as if myrtles should be mingled with brambles and thorns! Look into the social relations of Church families, and you will find them mixing and mating with the most heterogeneous phenomena. To an alarming degree, Mammon gauges the social attachments, after all, and not Christ. How seldom, when parties and entertainments are given in Christian homes—proper enough as cultivators of acquaintanceship and strengtheners of social ties—how seldom are church affinities recognized; and how slow are invitations in reaching the poor and obscure of the household of faith; and at the same time how the enameled *billet-doux* will fly as if with swallow's wings to the doors of the aristocratic unbeliever, who, received with the most mischievous curtsey, will laugh behind a sleeve at Christians courting the devil, and forgetting their own!

Instead of Christians being distinctly grouped, and flourishing by the influence of one another's example under the sun light of God's Spirit, and standing uncompromisingly separate from the "evil communications that corrupt good manners," we see them too often blighted as a half-and-half kind of growth in appearance; leafing and blooming religiously, but emitting the odor and bearing the fruit of perdition. When will the disciples of Jesus learn the duty and enjoy the glory of living in the world, unmingled by its deceitfulness, its worldliness and its boring to exemplify by truth, soberness, dignity, consistency, and all the amiabilities of a truly consecrated heart, the spirit of the Servant-master! For thus, only, may Christians in faith and form, become evangelists in nature and life, mingling with sinners daily, not to learn, but to teach, by intuitive example as well as by doctrinal and emontional word, the power and efficacy of relationship to the Lord, and the blessedness of association with the pure in heart who see and commune with God.

A word to the Church. As an organized band of believers, your business is not so much to spiritual gossip concerning the walks and the walks of men to see who of the saints may have been decoyed into trouble, and to bring them by the collar to the ecclesiastical lock-up; but rather that of councilmen—fellow-helpers and pastoral workers—to provide for the reformation of delinquents, and for the safety, comfort, and culture of all. The church should take the question of amusements, for example, into prayerful consideration, and adopt and consecrate such of them as may be useful to the Gospel in educating and refining the people. Satan aims to purloin from the church certain auxilliaries to educational development,—music, art, literature, amusements,—and if he succeeds in appropriating these to himself, leaving nothing in the church but restraint, awe, fear, monotone, and form, he will as effectually accomplish his purposes, as if he had bribed the whole band between the sinner and the Saviour. The church has its parlor, its library, and its wholesome social entertainments, as well as its pulpit, its pew, and its weekly lectures. The Scriptures authorize the one as much as the other. The true people, baptized into the Holy Communion of the Saints, should be, not only granted, but graciously furnished, at any cost, that essential sociality they desire; and the privilege should be so freed from the unhallowed fashions of the world, as never to invite improper exercise, or indulge in alien companionship. The Christian Home and the Eternal Heaven are alike in affinities, in associations, in pleasures, in purity, and in peace, and if their doors swing open toward each other to afford a passage from mortality to immortality, why should the Church be made a stumbling block between, by prohibiting in its creeds what it confers in its Gospel upon all, the liberty of a thorough physical, mental, moral and spiritual education—a rich round life-development from which the foolish dance, the trifling theater, and fastidious fashion, by all their glittering paraphernalia, could no more tempt a human soul to accept, than they could tempt an angel out of Paradise to search for joy!

Christ made religion attractive by his own amiable and loving life, so that little children circled around him to be blest, and were taken up bodily in his arms, and compared to the inhabitants of heaven—happy, cheerful, free, exultant, and full of song and pleasantry. And if the church to day would but provide for the proper social culture of her youth, turning the breath of her censorious criticism into kindly counsel and advice; if Christian people would consecrate all legitimate and healthful amusements for the good of all, then would young disciples not only be more thoroughly Christianized and united to the world, but Satan would be completely disarmed of a power which he continues to wield for the destruction of human souls. The methodism of men may rack itself to pieces in fitting humanity to its contracted formula; but the Methodism of the Gospel glorifies itself by developing all the faculties of the human mind; by enlarging all the affections of the human heart; and by strengthening all the muscles of the human body. And it demands that this training shall be afforded in a righteous and reasonable manner; and until religion corrects indolence, removes dyspepsia, regulates the table, and the markets, and amusements, and all secular as well as all spiritual thought and life, it is defective and un-Christly. When the Spirit of the Master shall possess and prompt the hearts of all Christian people to work for souls as they are, prisoned in the body, how to win, to draw, to help, to happify and bless and elevate human beings by bringing them to the living Christ rather than to the dead letter of a sect; to Him who sets men free from the law of sin and death, then will the world's low and corrupting substitutes for amusement and instruction, the theater, the ball-room and the gambling table be thrust out and kept out where they belong, in the blackness of outer darkness forever. Then the Christian man and woman will be so educated, and so supplied by perpetual aids to their development, as to mount up on wings as eagles, and soar grandly beyond the world's vain bubbles in the region of celestial joys. And then the association of all rising Christian people will be complete; then in honor will they prefer one another; then in mutual affection and in co-operative work, will they grow up into Christ *in all things* as if millennial summer were come!

2. *The Myrtle Tree Grows in the Valley.*—The man on the red horse stood among the myrtle trees that were in the bottom. The myrtle is indigenous to low, moist ground, and flourishes in retired and quiet places, in secluded valleys, along the damp soil by winding water courses, hidden from the traveler's eye until he comes immediately upon it, in its shrubby green clusters surrounded by hills. It does not gratify to be admired from a distance; but is most beautiful in its lowly stature and shining leaves when viewed closely in its native place; and it bears the touch and test of familiarity with greatest honor to itself. There is a gracefulness in the form of its branches, and a fineness in the texture of its leaves, which captivate the eye of the stranger, standing near, and bespeak his admiration at first sight. Down to the valley the myrtle invites the lover of beauty, and the student of Nature, for lessons which the mountains and their high forests are unqualified to teach.

The saints of God on earth are like the myrtles—they dwell in the valleys. Their graces are most comely and comforting down in the quiet retirements of home and neighborhood. The great hills of the world's business, forested all over by politics and fashion, and mined all through for mammon, however they may hide Christian communities, do not veil away the sunlight of heaven above, or prevent the refreshing dews of the Holy Spirit.

The true Christian is humble and childlike, influencing the sinner, and enjoying Christ in his own soul, more by his domestic life and every-day temper and talk, than by the formal religionism which is known by the solemn tones and phraseological straight-edged-ness of sanctuary and Sabbath alone.

The wicked are lofty, high-minded and haughty, ever striving for the front places in society for self's dear sake, robing themselves in fashion's gaudiest attire, building splendid acres, enlarging their mansions, exalting their own reputation by every sort of inflation to greatness and glory along the heights of the world. There is an unhallowed ambition in men and women to outshine, outdress, outlive; to outgather, rather than to outgive; to outsoar, rather than to outsing; to outenjoy, rather than to outsuffer; to rise to giddy elevations in the community, in fame, in wealth; all merely to glorify self at the expense of others, and at the sorrow of Christ.

But the prophet saw the man on the red horse, not riding among the great oaks of the hill, but down among the myrtles in the bottom. Jesus is with the humble, the few, the faithful, low in their appointed place. He is among the weak, the obscure, and the unknown, if they are grouped in equality as brothers in the bonds of loving life and communion; and he is in their midst to bless and defend and deliver. Jesus stands to-day as conqueror with any people, however insignificant in number and dishonored in name, who love one another, who recognize the republicanism of the Gospel, who believe the personal privileges and conscience rights of all saints to be equal, and the interests of all mutual and inseparable for ever! O beautiful for a land to a country like ours! and to a leader like Jesus, it is better for us to be in the valley of the ecclesiastical world, unpruned of religious rights, than to be trimmed and transplanted upon the hill and shadowed by foreign growths! Better to be lowly, evergreen myrtles, a little arm-entertwining group in the bottom, with the Red Horse Conqueror as only Leader and Lord, than to be magnificent poplars on the height, growing a dreary greenness in which the autumnal frosts shall wither in a night.

The Saints of God are most effectually defended and most richly developed in the valley. They are left here for that discipline and training which only the valley can afford. Their foundation ground will produce. They shall never be forsaken if they remain humble and contented in the sphere where grace has appointed them to grow. If an angel cheered Hagar in the wilderness, and in thirsty agony for her child, and strengthened the Son of Man in the garden, and stood sentinel at his grave; delivered a persecuted apostle from prison at midnight; surely the lowly and troubled Christian of any land or island shall not be overcome by reason of his obscurity.

And at last, when the valley of the shadow of death shall be trodden by the trembling pilgrim alone, then will the angel of the Lord, the God of Israel, or promised, loving Saviour, the Redeemer himself, sustain the sinking soul, and bear it across the waters to the shore of everlasting peace.

"Humble we must be if to heaven we go;
High is the road there, but the way is low."

Wherever the Christian may have been exalted in the esteem of his fellow-man; to whatever eminence he may have attained, in learning, in work, in benevolence, or in earthly honor, he must at last go down to the valley. "For it is appointed unto men once to die." Christ is with the disciple anywhere and everywhere; but he is nearer, and therefore stronger, down in the valley of the last shadow. Satan will saw him as a Conqueror for his people in the valley. The angels saw him as a Victor for himself, and all believers, in the tomb. The disciples saw him risen, with Death put under his feet; and beheld him ascending as he skies to heaven. And now he is the first-fruits of all who sleep in the valley of the grave. Have you not followed a dear one down into this shadow, down, down, until your own eyes were dim in the strange darkness? And there, when all earthly forms had fled, and all worldly honors faded away, away, there was Jesus seen all the more distinctly in the night as a Conqueror, standing among the myrtle trees, to defend and to deliver his own for ever!

3. *The myrtle tree is ever fragrant.* The fragrance of the myrtle is not in blossoms that open, glow for a little season, and then fade away; but in the evergreen leaves. It is fragrant all the year, yielding its sweet odors through winter's rough blasts, as well as through the showers and sunshine of summer time. And the more the leaves are tossed, the more richly do they exhale their delicious aroma; and when bruised are most fragrant of all, diffusing as they are crushed, the most delightful odors as long as a fragment of leaf remains.

Such is the nature of Christian example. It is not the mere influence of word, of promise, of sunny summer song, or the friendship of prosperity, when times are easy and health and honor fair. There is an unconscious but perpetual power circling out from a true disciple's life which breathes the same good will and performs the same kind actions, regardless of circumstance, the rolling year around, and all of life time through. The Christian is like his Lord, who is "the same, yesterday and to-day, and forever." His temper is even; his patience unbroken; his enjoyment unfailing; his peace like a river, sparkling and singing over rocks, and his soul is not time for show, or glitter, or display. There is no rehearsal of piety for great occasions! There are no programmed scenes to be unrolled according to arrangement and announce in the panorama of his life, and accompanied by phrasely word and thrilling music set to the exhibition.

The believer's influence is like the fragrance of the myrtle tree—an inseparable sweetness of life, gracious as it is undying; and breathes through storms of adversity and bereavement as freely as in mornings of dewy joy. And when he is most severely tried, troubled and persecuted, then is his example the most Christly in forbearance and love. Like the myrtle-leaf, bruised and torn, the saint of God, in the time of his sorest affliction, exhales the most heavenly spirit all abroad, as if the airs and blooms of Paradise should yet make Eden of this wilderness!

O more than sector sell the truth we prize;
Above our friendships hold we God;
And stricken be these feet of clay despise
The path their Master trod,
So let our banner be again unfurled,
And spread its motto to the breeze—
The Heavenly Conqueror subdues the world,
And stands among the myrtle trees!

Foreign Confidence in American Securities.

The New York *Times* remarks: It is remarkable how steadily our bonds have maintained themselves in Europe during the violent fluctuations of gold in this market since the 1st of July. They have only varied a fraction of one per cent., one way or the other. Yesterday they showed signs of strengthening; and it is evident now that our political sensations induce a lesser feeling of distrust there than in our own country.

On the same subject the *Commercial Bulletin* makes the following explanatory observations: There are reasons which may account for this. The result of the war has done more, perhaps, towards establishing the credit of the United States obligations and strengthening European confidence in Republican government than is generally supposed on this side of the Atlantic; and European investors having once placed their confidence are not in haste to remove it. Unlike ourselves, they have anticipated important difficulties requiring settlement after the close of the war, and from the beginning have "discounted" these considerations in advance which partially accounts for our bonds being held there at such a low price as compared with other securities. So that a quarrel over reconstruction is an event for which they had made a previous allowance in their calculations.

THE BENNINGHOFF ROBBERY.

A Daring Set of Robbers---$210,000 Carried Off---Particulars of the Robbery.

Our Pioneer correspondent telegraphed the fact Thursday evening that the dwelling of John Benninghoff, on Benninghoff run, was entered by robbers that evening, and robbed of $210,000. Mr. Benninghoff's house stands near the road, not frequented much of late, either by travel or teams, and the nearest neighbor is a quarter of a mile distant. Mr. Benninghoff is a Pennsylvania German, a plain, hard-working farmer, and about sixty years of age. He has a large family of grown up children, many of them staying at home. The old gentleman, all of a sudden, had riches thrust upon him by the discovery of oil on his sterile acres, and is one of our petroleum millionaires. We believe the first well was struck on his farm on Pioneer Run, in the fall of 1865; the production of his whole farm for last month was six hundred barrels a day, and ten new wells are now going down on it. Mr. B.'s income for December last, was reported at $40,000, but his sudden and dazzling fortune never made a fool of him, and they say he cares nothing for appearances, and wants to live as frugally and work as dilligently as when he used to eat his bread in the sweat of his brow. But he had taken the notion in his head to be his own banker, and to deposit his bonds and greenbacks in his own safe and house. The particulars of the robbery are thus related by the Titusville *Herald* of Saturday:

Shortly after seven o'clock the family, consisting of Mr. John Benninghoff, his wife, niece and two hired men, were sitting in the kitchen, when the door was opened and four men walked in. Three of these men were of medium sizes and the fourth was tall and heavy, and all of them were masked with handkerchiefs, cloths or comforters. On entering the room the men drew pistols and presenting them at the heads or breasts of the family, threatened them with immediate death if they should make the least noise. So completely were the family taken by surprise that but little resistance was offered except by Mr. Benninghoff, who cried out lustily on their first appearance. The first cry that he raised had scarcely left his lips when he was attacked by one or two of the others. Mr. Benninghoff is now in his sixty-seventh year, but notwithstanding his advanced age, he is still possessed of considerable strength, and he exerted it to the utmost. His strength was, however, entirely inadequate to cope with that of two or three middle aged men, and he was soon thrown to the floor. The ruffians then struck him in the face and stamped on various parts of his body, and then half dragged, half carried him into an adjoining bed room. All this time Mr. B. was by no means idle, but exerting forth his best endeavors to escape, and to attract attention from the outside. After they got Mr. B. somewhat under their control, they tied his arms and legs and then laid him on the bed and wrapped the bed clothes tightly about him. They then rifled his pockets and took from one of them his pocket book, containing a small amount of money and a key to one of the safes. After securing Mr. Benninghoff so that his limbs were fast and covering him more closely with the clothes, they left him in a powerless condition.

While Mr. Benninghoff was struggling with two of the ruffians, the other two had intimidated the two hired men, and they were soon tied in the chairs in which they sat at the time when the robbers first made their appearance. These men offered but very little or no resistance, and in very brief space of time were found themselves in a helpless condition. During the fracas, Mrs. Benninghoff managed to secure a revolver, which she handed to one of the hired men, but Mr. Windsor, the Government detective, and other emotion of a like character, did not use it, and immediately afterward one of the roughs got possession of it. Mrs. Benninghoff was seized, dragged into an adjoining room, and bound. Mr. Benninghoff's niece was also tied to a room near the kitchen and fastened to a lounge.

After every person in the house was securely fastened, the villains set to work to ransack the house in search of plunder, and a package containing $1,400 was had among a quantity of paper near the safe and left, and in another part of the house a second package, containing nearly $6,000 was dropped.

After ransacking the safe, the whole party returned to the kitchen, and after ascertaining from a member of the family that Mr. Joseph Benninghoff had gone to church, and that no other person would be likely to visit the house during the night, the villains set to work to make themselves comfortable. During their stay, which lasted about an hour, they appeared to be awaiting the return of Mr. Benninghoff, and they consumed a quantity of bread and milk.

Finally, the villains concluded to leave, and making a slip-noose, they put it round the neck of one of the hired men and led him to the barn and forced him to harness a horse to a cutter. The man was then led back to the house and retied. Two other horses were taken from the barn, and the whole party started off at a brisk pace. As soon as the last man left the house, Mr. Benninghoff's niece managed to loosen the cords with which she was bound. The rest of the family were then released, and the men started out and alarmed the neighbors, after which telegrams were sent in all directions to the authorities of the different places, apprising them of the affair.

After leaving the house, the five men with the horses and cutter proceeded up Benninghoff Run about one-half of a mile, when the cutter was smashed and the horses were turned loose, where they were found yesterday morning. From where the cutter and horses were abandoned, no farther traces of the party could be found.

The safe that was not opened, contained a much larger amount than that carried off.

Yesterday morning a reward of $10,000 was offered for the arrest of the robbers and return of the money, and later in the day it was increased to $20,000. About two o'clock, a dispatch was received by Mr. Benninghoff, from Oil City, stating that three men had been arrested on suspicion of being implicated in the robbery. Mr. B. and Deputy Sheriff Hull left Petroleum Center for Oil City, on the train that leaves the former place at 3:25 P. M., for the purpose of seeing if the men who were arrested could be identified.

The Fenian Panic in England.

A London letter by the latest steamer gives the following particulars of the Fenian panic which prevails all over and even beyond England:

"In England there is still a general feeling of insecurity both on the part of the government and the people, while the latter seem to be getting tired of the scare and the uncertainty and look anxiously for a climax of some sort. At Woolwich, the Royal Dockyards and Arsenal have been carefully guarded by extra detachments of artillery. While a steam launch, heavily freighted with soldiers, has been on guard duty in the river, the town or land side has been protected by 15,000 brain new special constables. At Windsor, the Queen's own infantry and cavalry always stationed there, the inhabitants of the town and the servants and dependents at the Castle have been sworn in as "specials," and sentries patrol the streets of the town and the lines of the neighborhood day and night. At Canterbury, Winchester, and other garrison towns, similar precautions have been taken, and in London, of course, all the Government offices and public buildings are under military as well as police surveillance. In Wales the Irish "quarters" at all the iron works are said to be in a state of ferment. Several arrests have taken place at Merthyr Tydvil, and the head of the Brotherhood is said to be very strong in the mountain region, and it is well known that large numbers of Irishmen drill every night among the hills. Up to this date nothing has been heard of the Fenian leader, Colonel Kelly, and as the Government received the Cable telegram on December 15, announcing her departure, she ought to be by this time somewhere near the coast. At least half a dozen men-of-war are looking out for her. The Lady Kate, the Roman; this imbecile politician permits himself to be duped by Bismarck and makes of itself a laughing stock for Europe. What a shame overflowing! Shall we give up to this shallow adventurer and his band our consciences, our honor, our lives? France is going to ruin, Italy is going to ruin, and we will not stir up; strikes increasing; starvation before us! There is the choice before us—dishonor and death under this man's yoke, or the vindication of our right to direct our own destinies! Will there be a strife?"

The other proclamations are much to the same purport; one of them has this queer passage: "We ran away from Mexico, driven out by a mere threat from the United States."

At the meeting of the Fenian conspirators was found the constitution of this society, which called itself the "Revolutionary Committee of French Workmen," the articles of which bound the members to an eternal enmity to the Empire.

Day before yesterday the trial was concluded. M. Accolas was condemned to a year's imprisonment and 500 francs fine; Naquet, Verlière, and Malon to five months' imprisonment and 500 francs fine; others from three to fifteen months, and all 500 francs fine, while to some were interdicted civil rights for five years. Considering the gravity of the offense, and admitting the right of a government to defend itself from conspiracies, we must admit that these sentences are by no means severe; yet it is evident that the trial has served to embitter the lower classes very much against the government of the Emperor.

Mixture of Races in California.

The intermixture of races in California is beyond all precedent in the history of mankind, and what the third and fourth generation may be like, or what language they will speak, are questions to puzzle the scientific inquirer. I know of marriages between Yankees and Digger Indians, Irish and Chinese, Mexican and Malay, Portuguese and Sandwich Islanders, English Canadian and negro, French and Apache, to say nothing of the more common intermarriages to be seen in all parts of America. What the children of the English language must suffer in the mouths of the descendants of these oddly-coupled people will be terrible. Why, even now, the most familiar terms of Spanish have become engrafted on our English, and they can by no means be distinguished and words from every language on earth, from Chinese to Kanaka, are working in. A laughable illustration of the effect of this jumbling together of the races came under my observation the other day. I had entered a bootmaker's to have a little job done, and said to the shopkeeper as a necessary preliminary, "You speak English?" His answer, delivered promptly and unhesitatingly, was, "Si, senor; certainment; you bet." There was three languages all in one sentence, and the good man stood pluming himself up with a look of proud satisfaction at the thought that he could speak English like a native. He was an Italian, I believe.

About Visiting Cards.

An important feature has of late been introduced into the use of these articles. The *beau monde*, of course, makes calls by merely sending around cards. That every one knows, and hence there was some sense in the order made by somebody to deliver cards New Year's day for such of the gentry as were too lazy to go in person. The point is this: when a card is left by your friend in a call in the usual, or empty expression of a still more empty politeness—but if it be really meant for a call, and not as a dead letter, you will find more corner turned down. The lady visitor sends a proper letter or message at the door of a "dear" friend—one whose kind regards she means to cherish—is careful, as she puts her card into the hands of the flunkey to deliver at the door, to turn down the corner of the card. The point is, as to say, "I love you dearly, and I am dying to see you, as you will perceive by looking at the inch of pasteboard;" and, having made this expressive utterance, the carriage drives on. *Viola inutile!* what new trick will folly foist on fashion?

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"Her Majesty," writes Colonel Grey, "has herself never entertained the slightest apprehension as to her personal safety, though she has thought it right to represent the case to the Government, by giving her sanction to the precautionary measures which they thought it prudent to adopt." And on the present occasion the offer of the people of Cowes has been respectfully declined. The Channel Islands Jersey and Guernsey tell us that a panic prevails there, and that all the militia and volunteers of the islands were under arms.

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NIAGARA FALLS.

Signs of an Early Breaking Down of the Horse Shoe Ledge.

[From the Buffalo Express, January 13.]

The interesting question of geological and commercial importance as to what period of time is likely to be consumed by the Falls of Niagara in wearing their way up the bed of Niagara river, past Tonawanda and Black Rock, until they become at Buffalo the Falls of Lake Erie, has been raised anew of late by some remarkable signs observed in the rapids above Horse Shoe Fall, which are thought to forebode an early downfall of the rocks forming that magnificent cataract. For more than a year past some watchful residents of the vicinity have marked a peculiar motion of the rapids at a point something less than half a mile above the apex of the horse shoe, in the channel which the greatest body of water descends, and this motion has been of a character to give rise to the supposition that a breach has been made by the current through the soft shale strata underlying the limestone that forms the present ledge of the Falls. Recently the appearance of the rapids, at the point indicated, has undergone a marked change, and so exactly in confirmation of the theory stated, that those watching it do not doubt the speedy doom of the famous Horse Shoe Cataract. If the limestone ledge, over which the river now falls, is, as supposed, in course of being undermined by a subterranean stream, breaking through as far back as nearly half a mile, of course the consequence, inevitable and liable to ensue at any moment, must be the immediate breaking away of the face of the cataract, changing its whole form and appearance—perhaps converting the perpendicular fall into a shooting rapid, down a steep decline.

Some observers at the Falls anticipate this grand catastrophe at an early day. In confirmation of these opinions, we find it stated in the Hamilton, Ontario *Times*, that within a few weeks past "Dr. J. N. Osborne, at Chippewa, has noted a marked and constant change in the motion of the rapids at the point indicated, and it is also reported the indications are discovered of the pouring of a subterranean stream into the gulf below the Falls, which the absence of the mist, it is thought, would reveal beyond a doubt." The same papers remarks that a gentleman from the Falls with whom it has conversed fully believes that the "days of the Great Horse Shoe are numbered."

A Plot Against the French Empire---Conviction of Conspirators.

A Paris correspondent of the Boston *Traveller*, under date of December 27th, sends us the following: An intense excitement has existed here of late, owing to the discovery of a conspiracy to bring about a revolution, and to drive Napoleon from the throne; so you see, the day of violence is not gone, and, in this inflammable community, an *emeute* is likely to take place at any time. The conspiracy just discovered is the more serious from the high character and standing of more than one of the conspirators. Twelve have been apprehended, and have had their trial in the Tribunal of Correctional Police; and some queer developments have ensued. It appears that a secret society with revolutionary intentions has been in existence here for more than a year. Its head was a man named Beslay, a rich manufacturer of much learning and of high reputation, who was conspicuous at the Geneva Congress; Doctor Naquet, M. Verlière, a man of letters; Godichet, a tutor in Latin; and several artizans of the Faubourg St. Antoine. The plot of the discovery was made by the police, was, that they were informed that certain seditious pamphlets and proclamations had been distributed in Paris for the purpose of the next election during operation, one would think. The police began to watch the suspected persons, and finally seized M. Accolas at his own house, and his papers, as well as the persons and papers of seven others, including Beslay, were searched, discovered are of a very violent character, and to enable you to judge of them, I will append the most characteristic:

"To the French People.—The reign of Bonaparte is founded on crime! It is ending in crime, after dragging France for fifteen years from shame to shame! The unpunished usurper of your rights, Bonaparte, the man-crime, would make you his instruments for the oppression of your neighbors. Frenchmen, will you permit it? Yesterday, the Mexican disgrace; to-day, the Roman; this imbecile politician permits himself to be duped by Bismarck and makes of itself a laughing stock for Europe. What a shame overflowing! Shall we give up to this shallow adventurer and his band our consciences, our honor, our lives? France is going to ruin, Italy is going to ruin, and we will not stir up; strikes increasing; starvation before us! There is the choice before us—dishonor and death under this man's yoke, or the vindication of our right to direct our own destinies! Will there be a strife?"

The other proclamations are much to the same purport; one of them has this queer passage: "We ran away from Mexico, driven out by a mere threat from the United States."

At the meeting of the conspirators was found the constitution of this society, which called itself the "Revolutionary Committee of French Workmen," the articles of which bound the members to an eternal enmity to the Empire.

Day before yesterday the trial was concluded. M. Accolas was condemned to a year's imprisonment and 500 francs fine; Naquet, Verlière, and Malon to five months' imprisonment and 500 francs fine; others from three to fifteen months, and all 500 francs fine, while to some were interdicted civil rights for five years. Considering the gravity of the offense, and admitting the right of a government to defend itself from conspiracies, we must admit that these sentences are by no means severe; yet it is evident that the trial has served to embitter the lower classes very much against the government of the Emperor.

Mixture of Races in California.

The intermixture of races in California is beyond all precedent in the history of mankind, and what the third and fourth generation may be like, or what language they will speak, are questions to puzzle the scientific inquirer. I know of marriages between Yankees and Digger Indians, Irish and Chinese, Mexican and Malay, Portuguese and Sandwich Islanders, English Canadian and negro, French and Apache, to say nothing of the more common intermarriages to be seen in all parts of America. What the children of the English language must suffer in the mouths of the descendants of these oddly-coupled people will be terrible. Why, even now, the most familiar terms of Spanish have become engrafted on our English, and they can by no means be distinguished and words from every language on earth, from Chinese to Kanaka, are working in. A laughable illustration of the effect of this jumbling together of the races came under my observation the other day. I had entered a bootmaker's to have a little job done, and said to the shopkeeper as a necessary preliminary, "You speak English?" His answer, delivered promptly and unhesitatingly, was, "Si, senor; certainment; you bet." There was three languages all in one sentence, and the good man stood pluming himself up with a look of proud satisfaction at the thought that he could speak English like a native. He was an Italian, I believe.

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EARTHQUAKE WAVES.

Curious Facts in Physical Geography.

The papers have lately announced the terribly destructive force of waves of the sea, produced by earthquakes, in the West India Islands. Professor Brocklesby, in his elements of Physical Geography, states some facts of an interesting character in reference to the velocity of the waves. On the 23d of December, 1854, immediately after an earthquake, the sea rolled in upon the town of Simoda, in Japan, in a wave thirty feet high, overwhelming it in an instant. After the wave fell there were only four feet of water in the harbor. Four or five similar waves followed at intervals, completing the destruction of the town. Professor Bache, of the Coast Survey, by observations made on the tide-gauges at San Francisco and San Diego, which registered all changes in the sea level, discovered that these earthquake waves at Simoda traveled across the Pacific.

The distances from Simoda to San Francisco is 4,627 geographical miles, which was traversed by the wave in twelve h

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1868.

GENERAL GRANT AND HIS DETRACTORS.

The ingratitude of men towards their benefactors is a very ancient story. "Put not your trust in princes" is an injunction of which the wisdom has been illustrated in all generations. So generally is its justness recognized and felt that even the most improbable statements, founded upon the truth on which it rests, have been received by people of all classes as having a certain antecedent probability in their favor. In the sixth century BELISARIUS, the illustrious General and benefactor of JUSTINIAN, through the jealousy of the Prince he had served and saved more than once, was recalled from the command of his army and imprisoned in his own palace for a year. But the tradition which represents him as stripped of his property, deprived of his eyes, and wandering through the streets of Constantinople a blind beggar, is even now received by the great multitude as true, because it seems to them really what the servants and benefactors of the great have to expect. MARMONTEL's story embodying the tradition is especially popular in France, because there the popular mind is filled with the recollections of great generals and statesmen slain or degraded by the rulers whose glory they had sustained or extended.

But it would be well for us to remember that not only Kings or Parliaments have it in their power to be ungrateful. Indeed the charge has been almost as frequently alleged against nations as against individuals. The ingratitude of Republics in particular is a theme often illustrated in praise of the better discrimination exercised and the more judicious and more ample rewards bestowed by princes upon the men who deliver them from evil, or confer benefits upon them. To give lustre to their generation and their native land or city, and then to live in banishment and die in poverty, or in the service of a foreign State, have been the fate of not a few of the greatest patriots in history. Times have changed, and we may be in no danger of treating our national benefactors with any such extent of cruelty or injustice. We are not likely to force our SHERMANS or our MEADES to seek safety and a livelihood by becoming the subjects and the servants of LOUIS NAPOLEON, or somebody else. But there is something in human nature, even in republican human nature—which predisposes it to take offense at favors done—to suspect the motives and the characters of its greatest benefactors—and to indemnify itself for being outshone, or overshadowed by superior merit—by ignoring the excellence, and if that be impossible, by tarnishing its brightness. "The debt immense of endless gratitude" is a quite intolerable burden to many minds, which suggests innumerable expedients for getting rid of its weight. The story is told—somewhat trite from repetition—that when the Athenian citizen who could not write, asked another more accomplished, to inscribe the name of ARISTIDES on the shell of banishment, he gave as his only reason that he was tired of hearing him called the Just. To degrade an immortal, or a highly meritorious name, to hint and insinuate at first and then boldly affirm that the services rendered were not so very important after all, and that they were achieved rather by happy accident than by sagacious forethought and skilfully adjusted plan, are the very commonplaces of these ignoble detractors. Unlike the distinguished functionary at an act of canonization, they step forth as volunteers in the base service, and without other commission than the prompting of their own petty minds and malignant hearts, and with no other remuneration in prospect than the applause and perhaps the spoils of party, they perform the work of the Devil's advocate. There is a difference, however. High authority informs us that that functionary was not required to display any especial zeal or animation in the discharge of his duty. He was expected to confine himself to the allegation of reported facts, and to the merest suggestion of evil motives, as the possible springs of the actions which had blessed the church, and now called for solemn recognition. Mere justice no doubt ordered this regulation; and besides, in the absence of it, there might have been difficulty in procuring an attorney for his satanic majesty by the most liberal fees and the most lavish promises, and that for an obvious reason. The candidate for saintly honors is always dead, and the dead not untrequently find forgiveness and sometimes receive eulogies even from envy and detraction. Is it possible to find in history anything more discreditable or more adapted to inspire fears for our national future than the disposition shown by some of our writers and speakers to disparage the great soldier to whom, as the organizer and leader of our gallant and devoted troops, we owe triumph over our enemies and the deliverance of the Republic in the time of most terrible perils? We can all well remember the time when there was no difference of opinion or of expression in regard to that grand soldier's merits. Under the impression of events just accomplished and in the sympathy of all hearts we recognized his deserts, and could no more ignore or deny them than ignore or deny the shining of the midday sun.

In reading the attempts of these writers to disparage GRANT and abate the admiration with which he is regarded, we cannot fail to be reminded of the frequency with which history repeats itself. The future American PLUTARCH will find very many important lines of parallel between GRANT and WASHINGTON, and should he have the sort or degree of antiquarian taste which led the late Lord MACAULEY to ransack not only the British museum but all nooks and corners for old libels and broad sheets, he will run his parallel into details which may even offend the dignity of history. GRANT is remarkable for reticence in regard to the men and events of his time and country. So was WASHINGTON. GRANT's detractors allege that he is one of those who are accounted wise from saying nothing; on the principle declared by SOLOMON that "even a fool if he holds his peace passes for a man of understanding." As we learn from JARED SPARKS, the same thing was said of WASHINGTON. GRANT, say these philosophers, is quite destitute of genius; he is a mere plodder, who has accomplished nothing by commanding intellect and everything by felicity in opportunity, and by availing himself of the suggestions of others. All this and much more of the same kind were said of WASHINGTON during his life, and have been repeated since his death, without, however, detracting an iota from his solid reputation, or lessening by a tittle the admiration with which all thinking men contemplate his career and cherish his memory. We confidently feel and predict that the results will be the same in the case of our contemporary general and benefactor. "Genius," said BUFFON, "is patience," "Rather," says a commentator on the dictum, "patience seeks, genius finds." In all the stages of our late war we had generals and now we have many statesmen, gifted with the power of intuition, which sees, or thinks it sees, all the elements of the position necessary to warrant prompt action. Some of these generals acted promptly with disastrous results. Some of these statesmen are now ready to act with promptitude, and we do not choose to foretell the consequences. GRANT's reputation for generalship, and for practical sagacity in statesmanship, may well and safely be left with those thoughtful men who are endowed with sufficient insight to admire in our general the patience which silently waits and seeks for the knowledge necessary to wise action, and which then knows how to make the most of opportunities.

LORD STANLEY disclaims all responsibility for the arrest of TRAIN, and conveniently places it on the shoulders of the poor "local authorities." This trick of making scape-goats of "local authorities" is not a new one. The disavowal of this act in this instance must, however, have been attended by a slight tinge of mortification on the part of his lordship. Now that MR. ADAMS has been so successful in procuring the release of one American citizen—and a blatherskite at that—perhaps he may feel encouraged to try his hand in the case of others, who are in English prisons on suspicion not much better supported than that which led the aforesaid local authorities to take MR. TRAIN into custody.

PUTTING DOWN GEN. GRANT.

An attempt is being made create the impression that General GRANT has falsified his word, the principal witness being ANDREW JOHNSON, who also is the aggrieved party. A cause whose success depends on establishing in the minds of the people such a belief, with such testimony, must indeed be desperate; nevertheless, it is just this that chiefly occupies the thoughts and enlists the efforts of the Democratic press. And right here it is interesting to note how completely the Democrats have committed themselves to the personal and political fortunes of MR. JOHNSON, and how impossible it is to find the dividing line between them. Whether MR. JOHNSON has gone to the Democrats or the Democrats have gone to MR. JOHNSON, is not necessary to settle, so long as we found them together laboring with equal zeal to break down GEN. GRANT. It was only very recently that either dared to openly attack him, though it has for some time been apparent that the hopes of the Democrats rested solely on getting him out of the Presidential path. Reinforced by MR. JOHNSON, they have advanced to the attack. Whatever may be the expectations of victory entertained by them, it is evident that MR. JOHNSON has achieved for himself one advantage by compelling the Democrats to make his cause their cause. That he cherishes this hope of compelling them to adopt him as their candidate is more than probable; and quite lately there have been rather significant signs in high Democratic quarters of something more than a friendly feeling toward the President, so that already the Democratic party has begun to take the form and imbibe the spirit of *Johnsonism*. The intelligent reader has not failed to notice the kindly sentiments expressed of late by leading Democratic journals for MR. JOHNSON, and how a common feeling as regards General GRANT, and a common necessity that he should be broken down, has, as we said at the outset, made the Democrats and the President zealous, if not, happy colaborers.

What chance of success there is for a cause which depends first on inducing the American people believe that General GRANT has been faithless to his word, and is not a man of truth and honor, we need not stop to inquire. They have raised the question, and the allies must abide the result. Whether MR. JOHNSON or the Democratic party, or both, be the accuser, Gen. GRANT will look to the country for judgment and vindication. And in view of all the circumstances in the case,—the Democratic party, leagued with ANDREW JOHNSON to destroy the fame of Gen. GRANT, by accusing him of falsehood, denying to him present patriotism, and even questioning his past success—the popular heart is stirred with indignation; and the great body of the people are moved with increased affection for our great Captain, who is no less faithful and capable in the performance of high civil duties.

IT gives us pleasure to note the fact that MR. GEORGE H. PENDLETON is making good headway for the Presidential nomination at the hands of the Democratic party. The latest volunteer in his behalf is the Chicago *Times*, the same that General BURNSIDE suppressed for its treasonable course. The candidate is worthy of the champion, and the champion is probably equal to the task of securing him the support of most of those who were on the rebel side during the war. It is altogether proper that MR. PENDLETON should have the support of the *Times*, and we sincerely hope he will receive the nomination. He believed in the rebellion, and the only failure on his part in this connection, was that he did not step across the line into Kentucky and join BRECKINRIDGE, JOHN MORGAN and those other patriots whose favorite he now is. Let us have MR. PENDLETON by all means. As the best representative of the Lost Cause on this side of the line, the loyal masses will make short work with him when the time comes.

GOVERNOR ORR's suggestion, in his address to the South Carolina Convention, concerning suffrage, illustrates the advancement which has been made in that State and the South generally on that question. His proposition is that there shall be equal suffrage, without reference to color or former condition, restricted only by a property or educational qualification: and in this connection he recommends a poll tax to provide for the education of all. In view of the former relations of the white and black population in South Carolina, these recommendations are liberal and give evidence of sound statesmanship. Few reflecting men will contend that under ordinary circumstances they would not meet the case; and but for the necessity of conferring the ballot on the blacks, growing out of the spirit of antagonism evinced in the South generally towards the late slave population, further than this few would have thought of going. Let that spirit be abated, or, better still, disappear altogether, and no reason will exist for declining GOVERNOR ORR's proposition.

ATTORNEY GENERAL BREWSTER, on behalf of Governor GEARY, has accepted the challenge of Judge ALLISON in his recent address to the Philadelphia Grand Jury. The point is involved in the setting at liberty, by the Court of Quarter Sessions in Philadelphia, of two convicts whose terms of imprisonment do not expire until July next. In other words, the Philadelphia Judges have exercised pardoning power which the Governor claims can be exercised only by himself. In order to test the question the Attorney General has caused to be served on the officers of the Philadelphia prison notice that in no event must they discharge either of the aforesaid convicts before their terms expire, "unless pardoned by the Governor or by virtue of an order made by the Supreme Court of the State upon a writ of *habeas corpus* being issued." It is understood that the question will at once be brought before the Supreme Court. The interest attaching to it is not confined to Philadelphia.

THE release of TRAIN from custody will be likely to spoil the scheme on foot in New York for getting up a great war-with-England mass meeting for airing a vast amount of musty rhetoric of unemployed demagogues. TRAIN went to England to get into some sort of squabble, and he almost succeeded. His release was too soon, however, for a successful blow-out by indignant gentlemen whose warlike valor is generally in proportion to the distance between themselves and probable danger. But erratic and crazy-headed as TRAIN confessedly is, he appears to have the advantage; for while the English authorities accomplished nothing to their credit, he will have something wherewith to glorify himself the balance of his life.

THE Free Railroad Bill and the bill for the restoration of the Connellsville Railroad Charter were promptly reported in the House yesterday, as previously agreed upon in committee. The Free Bill should be carefully considered in all its details and bearings, for on hoped-for defects, rendering the bill a practical nullity, the opponents of the free principle, failing in defeating it, will rely to accomplish their object. The Connellsville bill should simply and unqualifiedly restore the rights of which the company were robbed, nothing more, nothing less.

THE JOHNSON "Organ" says: "No business offers so much inducement to those who have no scruples as to how they make money, as the whisky business does." The official report of one MILLER, agent of the Treasury Department, who was sent out here to investigate certain "blackmailing" operations, shows that the inspection of oil in this district offered "much inducement" to a fellow "who has no scruples as to how he makes money."

School of Design for Women.

The works of the pupils in this Institution, executed during the year, are now on exhibition at the rooms, third and fourth story of Phelan's Building on Fifth street, FREE! The public are invited to this exhibition, to see the progress made during the past year. So far but a few have been interested, or have cherished and supported this institution. We want to see a great many interested, in the support of it, as it will ultimately be a great benefit to the whole community. The first benefit is, to the pupils themselves, giving them the advantage of a thorough course of instruction in the art of design such as could not have been had in this entire country a few years ago, and could only have been obtained by a prolonged and expensive visit to Europe. And even yet it is confined, in a great degree, to young women, whereas of course such facilities should be provided for young men as well.

The course is very thorough. The pupil commencing by copying simple straight lines, then curves, then simple forms from drawings, or engravings made for the purpose. After this they are set at drawing simple outline forms from plaster models, then more complex forms up to casts, from the most beautiful antique marbles. When the pupils are well grounded in this, they commence shading, both with crayon and India ink, and are taught to observe and imitate the way the shadows fall or "make themselves," as the Germans say, on these objects or models. Then they are taught the theory and science of color—its subtleties and contrasts.

After this they copy pictures in water and oil colors, and lastly study, immediately from nature, both landscape and the human figure. They also go through a course of Geometry, Perspective and Anatomy, for all of which they have excellent teachers.

This thorough course fits them for many positions, in which they can obtain much higher remuneration than women generally command. Several of the pupils in the Philadelphia school, and one or two already in this school, are employed by manufacturers of different wares in our neighborhood in making designs for them. More will find employment, as our manufacturers gradually find that it will pay to produce "things of beauty" as well as of use; and that the commonest article can be enhanced in value by a little study of grace in its form, which need not necessarily add to the cost of its manufacture.

For instance, in the article of glass lamps, of which such great numbers are produced here, we have yet to see the most elementary idea of grace and beauty in its form.

Let any one compare those produced in Paris or any of the great continental cities, where Schools of Design have been established, with the wretchedly clumsy articles produced here, and he will see the difference instantly.

We seem to have the very ideas that prevailed universally in England previous to the Great Exhibition of 1852, that in order to have an article strong, substantial, and therefore durable, it must necessarily be awkward and clumsy. But that grand exhibition dispelled this false idea by showing that the continental cities were infinitely in advance of England in all these things, and that strength and beauty could be combined with the most exquisite grace. What was the effect? The establishment of Schools of Design by the Government, justs uch as our own, in every manufacturing town in the United Kingdom, applying all the stimulus of prizes and honors bestowed by nobility and royalty itself. For the truth of this statement and for the practical results of this course, let any one glance for a moment at the beautiful forms in all departments of manufactures in silver, gold, glass, iron, marble, &c., as depicted in the London and other art journals, of objects in the recent French Exposition, showing that the English are now rivaling the best efforts of the French themselves.

In the items of furniture, silk, woolen and cotton goods, the very same article produced by French and German manufactories were sold at double the price of English goods of the same texture and quality simply because of the exquisite designs of the former.

We have heard a gentleman and his wife, missionaries in India for a long time, now visiting in this neighborhood, speak of their visit to Lyons, in France, during the last summer on their way home, and of the pictures they saw being wrought out in the silk hand looms of that place—portraits of our immortal Lincoln and other American worthies, so beautiful that many of them were exhibited and sold as pictures, like oil paintings. This was one of the results of their Schools of Design.

This thorough course will also fit the pupils to become competent teachers of others in our ordinary public and select schools, and thereby also benefit the community, as much valuable time is frittered away and wasted in trying to learn anything worth while from the incompetent teachers generally employed. Probably there is no aspect of this whole subject so important as this, and we may return to it. Not one in fifty of these teachers is capable of drawing even the simplest objects in nature at first hand, whereas in the lowest of the public schools in Germany this is constantly practiced. In short, we have been very much surprised at the improvement manifested by some of the pupils. There is certainly an unusual amount of talent in this, our school, we are told considerably more than in the Philadelphia School, and a friend of ours lately returned from an eighteen months sojourn in Europe, mainly among the artists, says he did not see as much signs of promise in any of the art schools which he had visited there.

ARTIST.

School of Design.

We are glad to notice that a large number of our most repectable citizens are visiting the exhibition of this admirable institution. We hope that all will avail themselves of the opportunity thus afforded.

Yesterday at the meeting of the Board of Directors the prize studentships mentioned on the ninth page of the prospectus were awarded as follows: To MRS. F. E. Marshall, wife of W. P. Marshall, of Wood street, and to Miss Rachel Henderson, who passed the Second Annual Exhibition most successfully. These give the ladies free admission for their third year. Also to Miss Ella Lamar and Miss Rachel Henderson, both of this city—two prize studentships in the oil painting class—as the most successful at the third annual exhibition. We congratulate these ladies on their success.

Will not some of our manufacturing gentlemen tempt the young ladies of these schools by the offer of liberal rewards for designs in various branches of manufactures? Would it not pay for instance in regard to iron fronts for stores and other buildings—new patterns of iron railings—stoves, &c., gas fixtures, and other things of the kind? Let it not be said that our enterprising firms have neglected so important an avenue to the enlargement of their business.

We have been surprised to notice that all that has been done thus far has been done by and in the name of the gentlemen of the place. Are there no ladies able and willing to contribute to this institution? In other places we think ladies take a deep interest in the matter. Indeed we have understood that the Philadelphia school, which has met with such marked favor and done so much good, was originated by a lady. We would respectfully suggest that at the next examination some of our ladies be placed on the committees and that they be requested to take an active part in all matters pertaining to the school. We see no good reason why they should not be invited to take part in the managements of it at once. We were sorry to hear that any among our respectable people should be found to think of the school as being an injury to the community in putting wrong notions in the heads of young women, making them unwilling to attend to domestic duties, thus unfitting them for the duties of wife and mother. This view is so false and narrow that we can hardly conceive how any intelligent person can entertain such notions.

We happened to hear a gentleman whose wife had some 12 or 14 years been attending to such matters both in Europe and in this country, say that he had been astonished to find of how much practical advantage this art education had been in the case of his wife. For instance, in the selection of carpets, furniture, China ware, &c., enabling her to decide apparently by intuition and instantly what was tasteful and likely to continue to please. He thought that in furnishing a house say for $5,000, at least $1,000 might be saved and yet really have articles in every respect of more permanent value by rejecting that which was tawdry and expensive, and therefore out of good taste. His visitors are constantly inclined to remark on the admirable taste displayed in all these matters. Surely an institution like this ought to have the patronage not only of our own citizens but also of the Legislature, because it is entitled to a part of the educational fund of the State, and we should be glad to know that our own members would earnestly second the appeal about to be made on this subject at the present session.

THEY have been hanging of late years pretty vigorously in Pennsylvania. We do not know a State in which the halter has had a fairer swing. Crime, by all the logic of the gallows, should diminish, then; but there are no symptoms of that desirable result. Indeed, the fact seems to be the other way. Only last Thursday, in Philadelphia, Rodman Graham murdered his young wife under dreadful circumstances, which we have already noticed. Perhaps they have not had hanging enough to produce the desired effect. If so, the deficiency seems likely to be supplied.—*Tribune.*

The Lumber Trade of Pittsburgh.

It is a well established fact that Pittsburgh suffers greatly in her standing among the great cities of the country by an almost total want of a proper dissemination of statistics regarding her various branches of trade, and of no one branch is there less generally known than her lumber interest. To get an idea of the extent of this interest we have only to look around us. Frame buildings—the major part of brick and stone—the doors, floors, windows, roofs; wagons and other wheeled vehicles; furniture, boxes for the packing of goods, barrels, tierces, hogsheads, railway cars, ships, steamboats, barges, flats, and other craft, are all of wood, and so it is everywhere. Turn your eye which way you will you encounter lumber in endless variety.

And the nature and source from whence this supply is obtained is a matter of agreeable speculation. The farmer who mows his grass, or reaps his wheat, does so with the full knowledge that by sowing again next year he can harvest another crop, and so for each successive year. But when the lumberman cuts down the mighty pine or oak, he has destroyed forever the growth of centuries. The mighty monarch of the forest that the well aimed blow of the sturdy woodman's axe lays prostrate on the ground, has breasted the storm and swayed its lofty top for centuries, and was only a little shrub when Columbus left Palos, and but a sapling when the Mayflower touched Plymouth Rock. And thus, as it were, in a twinkling, all this product of generations is gone.

Nowhere on the face of the earth is there such an indiscriminate cutting and slashing of valuable timber as in America. Some years ago it was estimated that in the State of Pennsylvania alone forty thousand acres were cut over every year, and this is no doubt greatly increased now. Now the question is, how long can this last? And it may be answered not over two or three generations; not that the land will be completely stripped, but all the best of the various kinds will be gone, alas! never to return. The consequence, then, must be a firm market for lumber in all the years to come—exceptional seasons will no doubt occur when the market may be over-supplied, but the general tendency is to a short supply for the future, and possibly, the immediate future.

For a long time Albany, N. Y., was considered the great lumber center of the United States, receiving annually about three hundred and fifty million feet, board measure. But latterly she has been completely overshadowed by Chicago, which claims last year to have marketed nine hundred and fifty million feet of lumber, an almost incredible story even for Chicago. If this amount were put in a belt one foot wide and an inch thick it would reach 180,000 miles, or more than seven times round the globe, which gives an idea of the immensity of the traffic.

Such things as these we can hardly claim for Pittsburgh, but we can claim enough to show that it is a very important branch of our commerce. Pittsburgh has three sources of supply—the first and greatest from the Allegheny river, the second from the Allegheny mountains by the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, and the third from Saginaw by the lakes and Toledo and Cleveland. We are now speaking of manufactured lumber and square timber, mostly pine and hemlock. We get oak staves, walnut, sycamore and other woods from various sources—Ohio, Virginia, &c. For white pine square timber Pittsburgh is the largest and best market in the United States. The immense, coal trade requires so many boats and barges as to make the demand very great for long and large pine, sawed stuff, and nowhere in the country can better mills be found for the manufacture of such lumber.

Writing of barges tempts us to a digression in order that honor may be given to whom honor is due. To see huge barges with acres of coal in a fleet, in tow of a powerful tug boat, looks simple enough, now that we have become used to it. But the time was when this was an invention and innovation, as much as the sewing machine. We believe that we do not err when we state that to our well-known fellow-citizen, William Reed, Esq., is due the honor of first having proposed the idea and given the plans of boats for the carrying of coal to the Western and Southern markets.

The saw mills in and around Pittsburgh number twenty-five, and contain thirty-eight circular saws, (large and small,) and sixty-two upright saws, (gangs included,) and manufacture about sixty-million feet (board measure) of lumber, twenty-five million lath, and fifteen million shingles per annum, worth in the aggregate, say, $1,725,000.

The timber from which this lumber is made comes from the Allegheny river and its tributaries. The Mahoning, Redbank and Clarion furnish the great proportion, all of which streams are on the east side of the river. From the books of the Redbank Improvement Company it appears that during the spring of 1867, one thousand eight hundred rafts were floated out of the creek, which would probably average three thousand cubic feet to each raft, making five millions, four hundred thousand feet cubic as the product of that single stream in timber alone, making no account of boards. The Mahoning and Clarion united produce as much as the Redbank. The rest of the river and its tributaries furnish at least 1,700,000 cubic feet, making, as the whole product of square timber, twelve million five hundred thousand cubic feet, or equivalent to one hundred million feet sawed lumber delivered in market during the year 1867. Jefferson county, one of the best pine districts in this State, had in the opinion of competent judges, one-tenth part of its pine forests cut off during last winter; and this is a sample of what is going on everywhere. In Maine, in Pennsylvania, in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and California, the havoc goes on, and each year consumes what has taken centuries to produce.

Of manufactured lumber, it is fair to assume that there was received in Pittsburgh during the year 1867, one hundred and twenty millions of feet, board measure, of the various kinds, by the Allegheny river; by the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, say thirty millions; and by the lakes and Cleveland, fifteen millions, to which add the one hundred millions in the form of square timber, and you have an aggregate of two hundred and sixty-five millions of feet, worth, at an average of $20 per M., five million two hundred thousand dollars, which is the sum total of the lumber product received at Pittsburgh, during the year 1867.

It may be said that a part of this lumber product is floated to and sold in Wheeling, Cincinnati, Louisville and other points on the Western waters, but it is first received in Pittsburgh, and very often changes ownership, is formed in very large fleets, and to all intents and purposes belongs to this city as a local centre and ought to be regarded and counted as part and parcel of our commerce. Enough has been shown, however, to prove that we have here an interest well worth noticing, and o which no account can be found in any statistical work as yet published concerning Pittsburgh, although different branches are noticed whose aggregate does not nearly equal the yearly product of the saw mills of this city, which we have stated to be $1,750,000, a figure in reality too low.

We may at some future time resume the subject and give other facts and figures regarding this important and interesting matter. M.

SOME years ago the Pennsylvania Railroad Company took three millions of seven per cent. bonds from the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Company, the bonds being convertible at the pleasure of the holder into an eight per cent. preferred stock. The money advanced on these bonds it was supposed at the time was sufficient to finish the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad. Time has shown that this was a mistake. The road is not yet satisfactorily finished, and on Saturday, at the request of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Company issued to the former Company forty-eight thousand shares of eight per cent. preferred stock in exchange for $2,400,000 of the seven per cent. bonds. The same bonds are to be re-issued without the convertible clause, the proceeds of their sale to go to the completion of the road, doubling a portion of the track, and to some new work. The funded liabilities of the Company remain the same, the capital stock increased by a preferred eight per cent. stock to the amount of forty-eight thousand shares.

THE Washington correspondent of the Lewiston (Me.) *Journal*, in a recent letter, says: "In West Virginia, Ohio and Indiana the Democratic conventions all unanimously recommend George H. Pendleton for the Presidency of the United States. A glance at Pendleton's antecedents, therefore, may not be uninteresting just at this time. Many years ago, when Cincinnati was but a thriving village, one Nathan Hunt owned a tannery near there, on "Deer Creek," about sixteen miles from another tannery, owned by one Jesse R. Grant, whose name has since become widely known as the father of General Grant. Nathan Hunt's tannery prospered, and he became a rich man; and his daughter, who married Nathaniel G. Pendleton, was the mother of the present Democratic favorite, George H. Pendleton. Thus it would seem, from present appearances, that the two great opposing parties of the United States will run, as their chosen candidates for the first office in the gift of the people, the son of a tanner, and the grandson of a tanner."

ADVICES from the copper mines region of Lake Superior state that the miners and merchants of Houghton are in a state of intense excitement, owing to the fact that the directors of the various mining companies threaten to suspend work for the winter, on account of the depression in the copper market. The workmen, who number over one thousand, are in a poor condition to be thrown out of employment. One or two companies have stopped work, but are partially resuming, preference being given to those of their employees who have families.

FROM BEAVER VALLEY.

New National Bank Building---Election of Officers and Directors---New Churches, Depot and Dwellings---Testimonial.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

NEW BRIGHTON, January 20, 1867.

The National Bank of Beaver County, in this place, has removed into the new building, which has just been completed, and is considered one of the finest in the county. It is entirely burglar and fire proof. In addition to a secure vault, they have a safe inside the vault that would foil the most persevering burglar, if he had free access thereto, for a week. It is made of chilled steel and the toughest iron combined, so that it would resist any drills or sledge hammers. There is no key-hole wherein to insert powder, and it is doubtless what it claims to be, burglar proof. It is from the manufactory of Burke & Barnes, of your city. A dwelling house is built in connection with the Bank, but it is entirely separate from it, there being no access from one to the other. The Bank declared a semi-annual dividend of five per cent. on the capital stock, on the 15th inst. On the 14th inst., the stockholders held an election for Directors, which resulted in the election of the old Board, viz: John Minor, James Duncan, John Stiles, George S. Barker, Milton Townsend, Mattison Darragh, R. Emmet Hoops, John Reeves, and Benj. Wilde. The new Directors met on the 15th, and appointed the same officers, Edward Hoops, Cashier; Henry Hoops, Teller.

The new Presbyterian Church on Broadway, approaches completion, and is a very fine edifice. The Methodist Church near the passenger depot is progressing, and is also a very handsome building. Protracted meetings are being held in this place by both Methodist Churches.

BEAVER FALLS.

The Presbyterians have organized a church in Beaver Falls, with thirty odd members. They have selected a lot for a building which was a donation from James Patterson, Esq., of that place.

The brick work of the new Depot is completed, and it promises ere long to be one of the prominent places of attraction to the citizens of Beaver Falls. About thirty-five houses are under contract; some of them are quite elegant, and are for Connecticut men.

The following testimonial was recently issued and signed by about thirty citizens of Beaver Falls:

TO MESSRS. BAKER AND HENRICI.

We the undersigned citizens of Beaver Falls, take this method of expressing to you our thankful appreciation, and sincere gratitude, for the kind and beneficent spirit which prompted you to adopt a plan whereby we shall be enabled to secure comfortable homes for ourselves and families. When we reflect that tens of thousands, this life is little else than "*a battle for bread*," who have no home or place to lay their weary heads—when we reflect upon this sorrowful fact, we feel that we cannot be too thankful for that kind Providence, which has through you, been so mindful of our needs, and of our welfare. And to you our friends and benefactors, we send this little testimonial of our respect, hoping we shall never be unworthy of the noble spirit which led you to aid us, and for which we shall ever hold you in the most grateful remembrance.

LINWOOD.

BEAVER FALLS, PA, January 10, 1868.

ROCHESTER.

A few days ago we had an opportunity of witnessing a new patent thresher and cleaner in operation, the invention of A. B. Smith, of Rochester, Pa. It is a compact machine, occupying one-third less space, and requiring at least one-third less power than any in use that will perform the same work. The method of separating is entirely new, dispensing with a large amount of gearing and machinery, heretofore used in other threshers. The principles upon which it is constructed will admit of its being built any size, varying from two to ten horse power. The plan of separation is perfect, so that not a grain is lost. It is pronounced by men who are considered competent judges to be the best machine in use. while the cost is also less than anything of the kind before the public.

BRIDGEWATER.

Mr. Braun, of this place, has also contributed to the comfort and convenience of gentlemen, by inventing a new clothes cleaner, dryer and presser, by which clothing can be renovated and ready for use in one hour's time.

LINWOOD.

Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company.

This institution, chartered some two years ago by Congress, has been a complete success, as will be seen by the following exhibit, prepared by Mr. D. L. Eaton, actuary at the principal office, located in Washington.

Under the first heading is given the amounts deposited at the several places named during the year 1867, the second the amounts drawn out, and the third column the gain during the year. The figures in the fourth column show the total amount on deposit December 21, 1867, which is $585,770 17.

Cities.	Dep'ts	Drafts.	Gain.	Due Dep'ts
Augusta, Ga.	$ 10,372	$ 13 100	$ 6,272	$ 11,964
Baltimore, Md.	81,191	71,328	9,862	46,290
Beaufort, S. C.	27,396	10,941	16,455	16,554
Charleston, S. C.	261,926	239,027	22,898	45,960
Huntsville, Ala.	10,818	6,747	4,037	4,474
Jackson, Miss.	36,618	126,941	9,676	11,201
Louisville, Ky.	163,037	144,126	5,891	67,178
Memphis, Tenn.	45,435	35,513	14,922	17,497
Mobile, Ala.	82,848	70,440	12,407	32,013
Nashville, Tenn.	86,662	69,937	16,725	19,496
New Orleans.	95,514	50,679	35,844	56,273
Norfolk, Va.	29,464	22,298	7,165	11,158
New York, N. Y.	94,486	42,541	51,944	19,320
Norfolk, Va.	110,077	99,246	11,130	18,129
Richmond, Va.	71,464	60,299	11,165	11,537
Savannah, Ga.	43,583	26,091	17,492	27,077
Vicksburg, Miss.	27,269	13,055	14,214	9,913
Vicksburg, Miss.	51,210	27,735	23,474	26,223
Washington	211,766	165,864	45,901	50,170
Wilmington, N. C.	5,792	3,357	2,435	2,150

Senator Sumner on Ireland.

The Rev. George W. Pepper, of North Carolina, recently wrote a letter to the Hon. Charles Sumner, in which he said that the latter's recent earnest speech in the Senate on American citizenship, coming as it did from the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, inspired him with the hope that at no distant day Irish-Americans, in their journeys to the old land for health and recreation, will be protected "from the arrests and indignities of that foul and treacherous nation, England." "Let Senators and Representatives," he added, "heed the suggestions and bold words of the President in his Message, and declare for equal rights, equal privileges, and an equal protection to all of its citizens, and I assure you that all of my countrymen will ever hold in grateful remembrance the Fortieth Congress." To this Mr. Sumner responded as follows:

UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER, WASHINGTON, January 8, 1868.

DEAR SIR—I have your note of the 7th in reference to the condition of Ireland and the rights of American citizens abroad. The latter question has long been, and is still, the subject of discussion between this Government and various foreign powers, and it is to be hoped that a satisfactory conclusion will soon be reached. It has already been brought up in Congress, when I took occasion to declare the absurdity of the claim made by England. I regret the condition of affairs in Ireland, which is indeed deplorable, and I am glad to see that the subject is beginning to engage the attention of English statesmen.

Justice to Ireland is a British necessity. In every effort for human rights there is but one side for my sympathy and aspiration. Believe me, Sir, faithfully, yours,

CHARLES SUMNER.

The Rev. Geo. Pepper, Goldsboro, N. C.

La Trappe.

To many Protestants even, La Trappe and its silent inmates are invested with a certain romantic interest and coloring. A recent traveler who spent some time there, makes a report which presents both in a more prosaic aspect. This traveler confesses that these monks indulge themselves in no other words than the monitory—*memento mori*. They are, of course, condemned—or rather devoted to silence—with the exception of the Abbot, who may speak whenever and wherever he pleases. The others, when they have anything to say to each other, step into a kind of wooden arcades, or rotundas, erected at certain intervals apart, and then converse in a low voice. In so-called regular places—as in the dormitory, refectory and chapel—it is absolutely forbidden to use the voice. The nourishment of the Trappists consists exclusively of a coarse diet or fasting food; even fish are forbidden their table. Their usual articles of food are vegetables cooked in water without butter. On high feast-days rice milk without sugar is permitted. The story that every Trappist must daily give at least one spade thrust to his own grave, is a fable. The Monks have got a large garden, which they cultivate themselves; at the back of this garden is the place of burial. There one open grave always stands ready, by injunction of their rule. When death fills it, another is dug. The vow of silence appears also to be strictly observed by many Brethren; for according to the declaration of a lay brother of the order, he did not know the tone of the voices of many monks with whom he had for forty years ate, drank and slept—*Sonntagsblatt*.

THE late whisky law has hermetically sealed in bonded warehouses, in New York, almost half a million of barrels, not one gallon of which can be withdrawn except on payment of the tax. The payment of two dollars per gallon is impossible in the present condition of the market, when whisky is sold at one dollar and thirty cents and one dollar and forty cents, and there is no apparent probability of its advancing, and the stock of the "free" article does not decrease, which is in itself an evidence of the collusion between revenue officers and manufacturers, or of gross negligence on the part of the former and deliberate fraud on the part of the latter.

THE Trustees of the Fund of the Academy of National Science of Philadelphia report that they have now in hand, collected and bearing interest, $92,448 56. Almost $3,000 of this is interest on moneys collected about a year ago, while $30,000 subscribed remain not yet paid. One gentleman, who has already contributed $1,000, has promised $5,000 more towards the erection of the new building. There seems to be no question but that funds will be provided through the liberality of our citizens, when the question of location is only finally settled, as we trust it soon will be to the satisfactory manner.

AMERICAN TOPICS.

British Opinion of the Territorial Acquisitions and of the Policy of the United States.

[From the London Daily News, Jan. 2.]

The United States are looking again forward to territorial acquisition. They are now disposed to repeat upon reflection what they have formerly done from patriotic instinct. Their war has burnt into their memory the inconvenience of having great European powers for their near neighbors, and the effect is seen in the acts of the Executive and the discussions of Congress. Differences of opinion may arise as to the time and manner of getting new territory, but a President or a Secretary of State who effects an extension of the area of the Union knows that he is sure of the approval of the nation. The purchase of the island of St. Thomas was a deviation from the older policy of the Government of the United States, which has not hitherto sought outlying territory, but it is justified as the acquisition of a naval station. "It is," writes Admiral Porter, "a central point, from which any one or all of the West India Islands can be assailed, while it is impervious to attack from landing parties, and can be fortified to any extent." It is "a small Gibraltar of itself," at which, in case of war, the vessels of the United States may be provisioned and coaled, and find means of repair. The effect of the experience of 1862-1865 is visible in these arguments and this result. The purchase of Alaska from Russia was not necessary to remove a hostile power from too close a neighborhood to the United States; but it took place in pursuance of a standing policy which anticipates without impatience as without distrust, the day when no "flag will wave on the North American Continent but the flag of the Union." This is a feeling independent of the vicissitudes of party, or of friendship or enmity for England. No American doubts that Canada and the other British provinces will one day form part of the United States, least of all that party which demand that the colonists shall be left unmolested and free to enter the Union at their own time and by their own consent. This is thoroughly understood at Ottawa and Toronto, and, we believe, at our own Colonial Office. Last month, Mr. Ramsay, of Minnesota, introduced into the Senate at Washington a resolution providing for compensation to the Hudson's Bay Company, for the assumption of the public debt of British Columbia, and for the construction of a railway from Lake Superior to Puget Sound, on the basis of a cession of the United States of British territory west of the ninetieth degree of longitude, including British Columbia. The resolution has been adopted, as it was certain not to be, but it

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, January 25, 1868.

Weekly Commercial.

THE RELATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT AND GEN. GRANT.

General Grant's Position in Regard to Secretary Stanton.

Special Dispatch to the New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Sunday, January 19.

GENERAL GRANT'S POSITION.

The President and his discomfitted friends are doing their best to provoke a controversy, or an issue of veracity, with General Grant. As usual, they fail to succeed in such efforts. General Grant leaves his public action to be condemned or commended as public opinion shall see fit, and asks no person to enter the lists in his defense. Nevertheless, some of the statements inspired by the President regarding the recent action of General Grant are so malicious and false, and so evidently designed to injure General Grant in the public estimation, that the facts in the case, which are well known here, should be plainly stated.

Some weeks, perhaps some months ago, General Grant and the President discussed the effect of the reinstatement of Mr. Stanton by the Senate, and they mutually agreed that if General Grant should remain in the office, and not surrender on the demand of Mr. Stanton, the latter would be obliged to have recourse to the courts to establish his claims. But General Grant made the President no promise that he would so remain in office, and thus become a party to the controversy. Subsequently General Grant closely examined the provisions of the tenure of office act, and became convinced that when he was officially notified that Mr. Stanton was reinstated by the Senate, he had but one course to pursue, and that was to vacate the office without waiting for Mr. Stanton's action, or knowing what that action would be. Upon this conviction General Grant acted, both in his interviews with the President and his surrender of the War office.

On Saturday, the 11th inst., Gen. Grant waited upon the President for the express purpose of informing him of his construction of the tenure of office act, and of what he deemed his action should be under it, in order that Mr. Johnson might be fully apprised thereof in advance. This was two days in advance of the Senate's action. The President and Gen. Grant discussed the matter for an hour or more, the former intimating that he thought the latter should put no attention to the law. Gen. Grant reminded the President that he had himself recognized the law in his suspension of Mr. Stanton, to which the President replied by saying that he had suspended Mr. Stanton by virtue of the power granted him in the Constitution to appoint, remove, and suspend officers, &c., and referred to the section of the Constitution in question. Gen. Grant then reminded him that he had certainly recognized the law in giving his reasons for the suspension. The President again referred to the Constitution, and said he had given those reasons by virtue of the constitutional provision requiring him to communicate to Congress from time to time information on public affairs, and that at all events there was no law against his giving his reasons to the Senate in the case of any removal, if he thought it necessary, and that it was a mere act of courtesy. Gen. Grant explicitly pointed out to Mr. Johnson the provision of section two of the Tenure of Office Act, and stated what seemed to him his only course of action in case Mr. Stanton was reinstated. Mr. Johnson, of course, did not concur; but while refraining from giving any order on the subject, seemed anxious to obtain from Gen. Grant some assurance that he would aid in the reinstatement of Mr. Stanton out. The General gave no such assurance, having plainly stated his probable course of action in the case, and the interview closed, the President casually remarking as the General left that he would see him again on the subject.

Great stress has been given to the charge that General Grant at this interview not only gave assurances above mentioned, but that he positively agreed to meet the President again on Monday. These charges are false, and are refuted by the facts as above stated. In the meantime, on Saturday night, I believe at a dinner party at Reverdy Johnson's, where Senator Sherman and others were present, the question of the War Office was discussed, and the possibility of an arrangement satisfactory to all was broached. It was thought that if some fair, moderate man could be suggested to the President, who would receive the confirmation of the Senate, it might also prove satisfactory to Mr. Stanton and his friends. The name of Governor Cox, of Ohio, was suggested as a fit person, and was received with so much favor by those present, that Senator Johnson agreed to present the suggestion to the President. I believe both Gens. Grant and Sherman were cognizant of this proposition. The President was promptly informed, but gave no indication as to what his action would be.

On Monday Gen. Sherman called on the President, at Gen. Grant's request, to ascertain if he had come to any conclusion on the question of the War Office, but the interview was barren of results. On Monday night Gen. Grant, as well as Mr. Stanton and the President, received notification from the Senate of the reinstatement of Mr. Stanton. On Tuesday morning Gen. Grant soberly and in compliance with his convictions of his duty under the law—really too plain to need a second reading—and without any knowledge of Stanton's purpose, repaired to the Department, took his private papers, surrendered the key to the Adjutant-General, who was its proper custodian, and went to his headquarters, where he immediately wrote the letter to the President, heretofore printed, informing him of his action. While writing this, he was informed that Mr. Stanton was at the War Department and wished to see him. After dispatching his letter to the President, he complied with the Secretary's request. Subsequently the President sent word desiring him to attend the Cabinet meeting. Gen. Grant presented himself, but not in the capacity of Secretary of War. It was at this Cabinet meeting, on Tuesday, that the President sought to convey the impression that Gen. Grant had given him assurance that he would not vacate the War Office except by the order of the Executive or by process from the courts.

General Grant called Mr. Johnson's attention to the conversation in which he said he had given him full information as to his views of the law and as to his action thereunder. Mr. Johnson also reminded General Grant that he had agreed to meet him on Monday, in response to which the General reminded His Excellency that the agreement consisted entirely in the expression by the latter of his intention of seeing him (General Grant,) again on the subjects. On Wednesday General Grant again called on the President, in company with General Sherman, and in discussing the question, called the President's attention to the apparently authorized charges of duplicity and bad faith that appeared in print that morning. Mr. Johnson promptly repudiated any connection with them, and said they were wholly unauthorized.

This is the whole story. The facts as given cannot be refuted, and I state them on my own responsibility. The whole thing in a nutshell is just this: The President dared not take the responsibility of a violation of the tenure of office law, nor give Gen. Grant any order involving such an act, yet he hoped he might be able to seduce General Grant into such a course, and thus use him in keeping Mr. Stanton out without his own fingers. He was too slow in acting on the suggesting of Gov. Cox's name, and the Senate and Stanton were too quick for him in their action. It is difficult to see who is to blame for his discomfiture but himself.

Roman Catholics in Pennsylvania

According to the statistics recently gathered by the dignitaries of the Catholic Church there are now two hundred and seventy-five thousand Catholics in this diocese. Two hundred and thirty-four priests, secular and regular, minister to their wants in a hundred and eighty-six churches, forty-one chapels and at ninety-five stations. There are five new churches building. The cause of education seems very well attended to. There are fifty-four parochial schools supported by as many congregations, three colleges and twenty-two academies and select schools for young ladies. There are seventy-six students in the Seminary of Saint Charles Borromeo, forty in the Preparatory Seminary at Glen Riddle, and two clerical students at Rome. The parochial schools are mainly taught by "sisters" and "Christian brothers." There are twenty-one of the latter and four hundred and eighty of the former; the latter dwelling in twenty-two convents. Many of these sisters are employed in the academies and select schools, and others in hospitals, of which, Catholic) there are two, Saint Vincent's and St. Mary's. There a reseverty-nine beneficial societies in the interest of the Church, and fifteen St. Vincent de Paul societies, whose object is to succor the poor.

Measuring the Transparency of the Atmosphere.

That there is an almost invariable connection between the transparency of the air and the state of the weather, is a matter of common observation. For an explanation of this fact, Professor de la Rive, of Geneva, adopts the views of Pasteur, who believes that the atmosphere near the earth is full of myriads of organic germs which, when dry, form a light fog and intercept light. When, however, they are saturated with moisture they become transparent, and a heavy rain washes them to the earth. So again, the atmosphere is clearest during the winter season, the cold being fatal to the life of these germs. If, now, this explanation is the true one, Professor de la Rive argues, then any contrivance for relatively measuring this transparency may be of great importance in a sanitary point of view. Such an instrument the Professor constructs by using a double telescope with a single eye-piece, by means of which the images of two objects of different but known distances can be compared, and the transparency of a measured stratum of air readily determined.

The property of Chicago was assessed for taxation last year at its full value. The total valuation is $193,249,644—$111,848,800, $51,400,097, $28,990,747, in the south, west and northern divisions, respectively. In 1857 the total valuation was $156,843; in 1847 $5,949,170; in 1859 $31,756,084.

"A Conscientious Soldier" has sent to Governor Geary the sum of seventy-three dollars, which he says "belongs to the State Treasury." Governor Geary has handed over the money to State Treasurer Kemble.

The banking business of Cincinnati, in December last, employed an average capital of $2,015,750, with average deposits of $5,560,058. These figures are taken from the Assessor's books.

PERSONAL.

—While Judge William B. Wright was dying at Albany, his daughter was at his bedside. While attending upon her father, in his last moments, she received news of the death of her husband, Lieut. Adams, of the navy, at the family residence in Kingston, Ulster county, N. Y.

—The young King of Greece is only twenty-two, has chestnut hair, blue eyes, an aquiline nose, full, round cheeks, and a face expressive of amiability and good humor rather than force of character. His Queen Olga, a girl of seventeen, is a pretty, plump blonde, and, most remarkable of all, is very economical in her habits.

—Gail Hamilton thinks that suffrage would be improved more by restricting it among men than by extending it to women.

—The Chief Librarian of the British Museum has lately issued an order forbidding any reader, under any circumstances, leaving his book-bag, as aforetime, with the curators who take care of the sticks and umbrellas at the reading-room door. Mr. W. Thornbury says the reason for this is that the librarian believes there are Fenians among the readers under the great dome of the Museum, and he is afraid that one of these Celtic-Yankee monsters would bring in quart bottles of nitro-glycerine and blow up their more studious companions.

—Mr. Noel Humphrey, in his "History of the Art of Printing," notes a curious typographical blunder which occurred not very long ago in a ponderous volume of Sir Archibald Allison's stately history, where, in describing the pall-bearers at the funeral of the Duke of Wellington, the fourth being Sir Peregrine Maitland, that personage, by a temporary association of ideas in the mind of the printer, was transformed into Sir Peregrine Pickle, and so it stands in a certain number of copies to the present day, as any one curious in the matter may easily prove by reference to the fine large imperial octavo in question.

—Bishop Benjamin Bosworth Smith, of Kentucky, now Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the United States, is advanced in years and unequal to the active discharge of Episcopal duties. He is a Low Churchman. Last year the Rev. George D. Cummins, of Chicago, was elected his assistant, and does most of the duty. Next in order of succession is Bishop McIlvaine, of Ohio, who is seventy, and so thinks as to require the services of an Assistant Bishop (Bedell.) Bishop McIlvaine is a very Low Churchman. Next to him is Bishop Kemper, of Wisconsin, High Church, quite old and infirm, and has an assistant (Armitage.) Next is Bishop Whitehouse, of Illinois, High Church, a man of stalwart frame and in fine health.

—Mr. Swinburne has for a time abandoned original poetical composition to appear as a commentator on the works of William Blake, painter and poet. His volume is enriched with some choice fac-similes of the charming imaginings of the artist which have now, after a period of utter neglect, become the most eagerly sought for of any objects that fine-art collectors lavish their money upon.

—The Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati *Commercial* furnishes the following: There never was greater need than at present for a vigorous prosecution against intemperance in high places. Whether Senator Wilson has become discouraged or disgusted I know not, but he seems to have entirely relinquished his Christian efforts, of a year ago, to reform his Congressional brethren through the agency of his temperance society. One gentleman, who was an exemplary member of the Congressional Temperance Society, a year ago, astonished and appalled the boarders at Willard's one morning last week, by entering the breakfast-room in his night-shirt, at about 8 o'clock, to obtain a cab to go home in a hand-cart, not many Sundays since; while still another, over whose conversation all the ladies were, a year ago, saturating their pocket-handkerchiefs, and "carrying on" in a more noisy dramatic style than any thing recorded of the Brick Lane Branch of the Ebenezer Temperance Society, of which the elder Mr. Weller's "second wentur" was such a bright and shining light—that gentleman (need I say he is a distinguished Senator from the West?) has been, for a week or more, confined to his room and a diet of pickled cabbage to help him over a prolonged carouse, terminating in the delirimens. Nor is this all. Would that it were. It is not even the worst.

—Representative Poland, of Vermont, is credited with a good thing in reply to the remark of a friend that the Vermont Republicans intend to present his name in Convention as a candidate for Vice President. "Well, sir," said he, "the party might do worse; and they probably will."

—The River Seine, at Paris, was frozen over during the first week in January, an event that has not occurred for twenty years. The river and skating ponds are crowded with skaters. Among these, a young American lady, Miss Beckwith, attracts much attention by the agility and grace with which she executes with her skates the most difficult figures. The Empress and Empress watch Miss Beckwith's evolutions with great interest.

—A correspondent of the Chicago *Tribune*, who rejoices in the oriental signature of "Bamboo," furnishes that paper with some items of interest about the future plans of Maretzek, who intends bringing out at the Academy of Music Wallace's opera "Lurline," in which the opportunity for scenic display will not be forgotten. Twenty thousand dollars will be expended on the scenery, and the homes of the water sprites will be represented in the most gorgeous manner. Musically, the opera is really a most delicious one, and the various articles of trade that we can make, will be found in connection with the articles noted below.

The receipts of leading articles of produce, since our last report, has been extremely light, as will be seen the following: Flour, 325 bbls; corn meal, 925 bbls; corn 300 sacks; wheat 44 sacks; barley 623 sacks; rye 272 sacks; oats 334 sacks, and butter 26 pkgs.

We quote as follows, which are the wholesale store prices, unless otherwise indicated:

APPLES—Sales ranged from $3 50@4 50 ₱ barrel as to quality. A few sales were effected, in a retail way, of very choice at $5 00 ₱ barrel.

BUTTER—We note sales of choice roll butter at 38@42c ₱ lb.

EGGS—Sales were made of choice eggs at 40@42c ₱ dozen.

BACON, LARD, &c.—Trade moderate at 16@16½c for sugar cured hams; 10½c for shoulders; 12½c for sides; 15c for dried beef and 13½c for leaf lard.

LARD OIL—We quote No. 1 lard oil at $1 10, and No. 2 at 88c ₱ gallon.

CRANBERRIES—We note sales of cultivated at $14 00 ₱ barrel.

DRIED FRUIT—We note sales of 30 the dried apples at 7c ₱ lb, and 30 bbls peaches (halves) western, at 11c ₱ lb.

POTATOES—Sales noted of 25 bbls peach blow potatoes at $4 50 ₱ barrel.

CIDER VINEGAR—Sales reported of 50bls Cider Vinegar at 20c ₱ gallon.

VENISON—We quote saddles at 25c ₱ lb, and whole carcass at 15c ₱ lb.

DRIED BLACKBERRIES—Sales noted of 3 bbls at 14c ₱ lb.

SORGHUM—We have reported sales of choice at 70c ₱ gallon.

SEED—Market dull at $7@7 50 ₱ bushel for Clover Seed, and $2 25 ₱ bushel for Flaxseed.

HAY—We note sales of 14 loads of Timothy Hay, from country wagons, at prices ranging from $18@23 ₱ ton, as to quality.

MILL FEED—We note a sale of one car Middlings at $2 20 ₱ hundred.

STRAW—Sales of Oats Straw were made at $12@14 ₱ ton.

GRAIN—Receipts of all kinds of grain are very light. We note sales of oats in depot at 65@67c ₱ bush, and from store at 66@70c ₱ bush. New ear corn is selling at $1 00 ₱ bush, and new shelled at $1 05 ₱ bush. Choice old yellow shelled is still held at $1 10@1 15 ₱ bush. No fall barley offering, but choice spring sold as high as $1 30 ₱ bush. We quote barley malt at $2 10 ₱ bush, and rye malt at $1 80 ₱ bush. We note sales of rye at $1 30@1 40 ₱ bush, as to quality. No transactions in winter at $2 and white wheat at $2 60@2 65 ₱ bush, as to quality.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—Prices are nominal as to quality. We note sales of 2,200 lbs at $4 50 ₱ hundred. A choice article commands a much higher figure.

HOPS—We quote prime Wisconsin at 66c; Bavarian at 66c, and New York at 50 to 60c ₱ lb.

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Groceries.

The grocery market has been dull, but prices are well maintained. In the absence of water communication, our merchants have been receiving New Orleans sugar and molasses by rail from the various points on the river reached by the boats previous to the freeze, which has of course affected prices both in eastern markets, and at which prices they could not well be replaced, taking into consideration the present prices at New Orleans. The advantages now are in favor of the buyer. Teas firmer. Rice—a speculative article, as the East has advanced prices, as in this article here. Carolina scarce.

We quote:

COFFEE—Old Government Java, in bags, 37c; in mats, 36c; Laguayra, in bags, choice 26c; prime, 25c; good, 23c; roasting, 20@22c.

SUGARS—Porto Rico, 14c; Cuba, 13@14c; Sugar House, 11½@12½c; Granulated, 17½c; Powdered, 17½c; Crushed, 17½c; A Coffee, 16½c; do do, 16½c; extra C, 16c; New Orleans 14½@15c.

MOLASSES—New Orleans, 85@88c; Porto Rico, 70@80c; Cuba, 60@70c; Demerara, 82c.

SYRUP—Lovering's, $1 00; other choice brands, $1 00; fair to good, 90@95c.

TEAS—Young Hyson, common to finest, 90@$1 85; Imperial and Gunpowder, do, $1 25@2 80; Japan, 90c@$1 25; Oolong, 90c@$1 75.

RICE—Carolina, 10@11½c; Rangoon, 10@10½c.

VINEGAR—Pure white wine vinegar, in original packages, 25c; common 25@30c.

FISH—No. 1 Shore Mackerel, $18@19; No. 2 Shore, $15; No. 1 Bay do, $20; No. 2 Bay do, $15; No. 3 large do, $12 50@13 00; Lake Herring, $3 75; White Fish, $6 75. Codfish, 5@6c ₱ lb.

SODA—English Bicarb 9c. American 8c.

SPICES—Pimento, 35c; Pepper, 38c; Cloves, 45c; Nutmegs, $1 60; Cassia, 80c.

SOAP—McKeon, Van Haagen & Co.'s Chemical Olive, 11½c; Babbett's, 11½c; Oakley's, 11c.

LYE—Concentrated, by case, $7 25.

CANDLES—Proctor & Gamble's star candles, 26c for full weight.

INDIGO—Madras 90c@$1 50; Manila 95c@$1 45.

BAR LEAD—12½c.

DROP SHOT—13c.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, Jan. 22, 1868.

There was less activity in the local money market to-day. The brokers complain of the dullness. Money is in better supply, but it is difficult to satisfy lenders with securities in the shape of promissory notes. A dull and declining market fosters distrust, and capitalists are shy and timid. The investment demand for Governments has been very brisk, which absorbs a large amount of balances that may be on hand, as they offer unquestionable safety. Private investors and financial institutions are making heavy purchases of Five-Twenties. One bank or trust company last week made a very large purchase, amounting to fifty thousand dollars.

—Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co., bankers, report the following quotations for governments, as received from Jay Cooke & Co., their New York correspondents:—U. S. 6s, 1881, 110¾; U. S. 5-20s, 1862, 110¾; do 1864, 108; do 1865, May and November, 109¾; do 1865, January and July, 106⅜; U. S. 10-40s, 103¾; May 1865, Compounds, 117⅜; June 7-30s, 106⅝; July 7-30s, 106⅝; Gold, 139½; 5-20s, 1867, 106⅝.

Messrs. James T. Brady & Co., bankers, report the following rates for governments to-day:—Gold, 139½; U. S. 6s, 1881, 110¾; U. S. 5-20s, 1862, 110¾; do 1864, 108; do 1865, 106¾; U. S. 10-40s, 103¾; U. S. 5-20s, January and July, 1865, 106⅜; do 1867, 106¾; June 7-30s 106⅝; July do 106⅝; May Compounds, 1865, 117⅜.

—Railway stocks maintain pretty firmly the late advance, which is said to have been the result of purchases by the cliques, and is said to be the commencement of a programme for running up the market generally the next forty days. The "shorts" were naturally frightened into covering somewhat, and their purchases have aided the advance. The "bulls" at present control the market, and rely upon the case in loans for a strong market until the close of February. The noon quotations to-day at New York were as follows: Michigan Southern, 87¾; Cleveland & Pittsburgh, 94¾; Pittsburgh, Ft. Wayne & Chicago, 101¾; Erie, 75; Chicago & Northwestern, 60¾;

—The following shows the totals of the average of the leading items of the Philadelphia Banks for the past and previous week:

	Last week.	This week.
Capital	$8,037,150	$8,037,150
Loans	32,393,707	33,013,196 Inc. $619,489
Specie	466,035	527,921 Dec. 79,042
Legal Tenders	17,027,993	16,827,428 Dec. 200,567
Due from banks	4,304,008	4,326,106 Inc. 22,098
Due to banks	8,358,879	7,960,982 Inc. 396,794
Deposits	27,131,630	27,457,080 Inc. 325,450
Circulation	10,650,000	10,641,742 Dec. 8,258
Clearings	34,075,289	31,313,381 Dec. 2,761,888
Balances	8,247,384	8,212,486 Dec. 34,898

The averages of the banks for last week show an increase in loans of $419,489. The deposits and circulation in the same time increased $328,275, and the reserve of specie and legal tenders decreased $210,909. The clearing house operations show a lessened business, the clearings having fallen off $2,761,888, and the balances $34,899. The movement, though a little irregular, is on the side of an increase of trade and business.

—The market for Government bonds has cut loose from the price of gold, and is advancing steadily owing to the moderate supply in the hands of dealers and the increasing demand for investment. The decline in the rates for loans will have the tendency to stimulate the purchase of bonds, as the amount of loanable funds pressing on the market for employment in temporary and short loans is largely in excess of the demand. Government bonds at present quotations not only pay higher rates of interest than it is possible to obtain on loans, but the buyers at present quotations will probably also realize before long the profit of 5 to 8 per cent. The purchase prices of 1862 were selling at 113 to 115½, and others in proportion. The 1862s were sold to-day at 110⅝ to 110¾.—*N. Y. World.*

—At Cincinnati, the *Commercial* says, the tendency of the money market has been toward greater closeness, yet for the past two days there has been less activity in discounting than for several previous days. Currency does not increase in volume much, if at all, being as much locked up in the banking vaults, and especially tardy in the payment of debts owing by country merchants. Rates of interest have been steadily maintained at 10@18 ₱ cent., without representing any increased activity in business, the fact rather being that the demand of the borrowing is done for the purpose of carrying trade through a period of suspended animation. The greater monetary case noted in New York tends to foster a speculative spirit there, but so far it has almost wholly been confined to the Stock market.

—Our latest letters from California report the San Francisco money market in an easy condition—in fact more easy, perhaps, than it ever has been before. The rate for call loans, at the point in question, is one per cent. a month; for long loans on good collaterals, nine and ten per cent. Capital is accumulating there, the Pacific coast's the mines continue productive, and the wheat crop of the last year has been magnificent.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } WEDNESDAY EVENING, Jan. 22, 1868. }

There has been very little, if any, change in prices of produce since our last report. Commercial transactions continue limited to a small aggregate. A few special reductions are noted in the various articles of trade that we can make, will be found in connection with the articles noted below.

The receipts of leading articles of produce, since our last report, has been extremely light, as will be seen the following: Flour, 325 bbls; corn meal, 925 bbls; corn 300 sacks; wheat 44 sacks; barley 623 sacks; rye 272 sacks; oats 334 sacks, and butter 26 pkgs.

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RICE—Carolina, 10@11½c; Rangoon, 10@10½c.

VINEGAR—Pure white wine vinegar, in original packages, 25c; common 25@30c.

FISH—No. 1 Shore Mackerel, $18@19; No. 2 Shore, $15; No. 1 Bay do, $20; No. 2 Bay do, $15; No. 3 large do, $12 50@13 00; Lake Herring, $3 75; White Fish, $6 75. Codfish, 5@6c ₱ lb.

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SPICES—Pimento, 35c; Pepper, 38c; Cloves, 45c; Nutmegs, $1 60; Cassia, 80c.

SOAP—McKeon, Van Haagen & Co.'s Chemical Olive, 11½c; Babbett's, 11½c; Oakley's, 11c.

LYE—Concentrated, by case, $7 25.

CANDLES—Proctor & Gamble's star candles, 26c for full weight.

INDIGO—Madras 90c@$1 50; Manila 95c@$1 45.

BAR LEAD—12½c.

DROP SHOT—13c.

FAMILY MARKET.

LIVING EXPENSES IN PITTSBURGH.

CAREFULLY REVISED EVERY WEDNESDAY.

OFFICE OF PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } WEDNESDAY EVENING, January 22, 1868. }

The following are the retail prices current for the various articles of the usual quality, entering into daily family consumption:

BREAD AND CRACKERS.

Wheat loaf, each	10	Dyspepsia Crackers ₱ lb.	15
Rye	5	Pic Nic	40
Boston Crackers ₱ lb.	15@20	Graham Wafer, ₱ lb.	16
Wine	15	Milk	15
Soda	15	Ginger Snaps,	22
Oyster	15	Fluted Butter,	22
Water	13	Almond Nuts,	25
Butter	15	Fancy Crackers	25
Sugar	15	Cracker Meal	15
Graham	15	Jumbles	20
French	40		

BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS.

Butter, print, ₱ lb.	50@60	Eggs, hen, ₱ doz.	45@50
" Firkin Roll	50	Dutch Cheese, ₱ doz.	20@22
Pine Apple Cheese	30	Cheese, Goshen	20
"	40	Cheese, com'n Ohio	15

FISH—FRESH.

Lake Salmon	10	Haddock	8@10
White Fish	12	Pike Perch	10@12
Herring	5	Cod Fish	20
Catfish	10	Eels	20
Suckers	6@10		

FISH—DRY, SHELL, SMOKED, ETC.

Cod, dry, ₱ lb.	10	Mackerel, No. 1 Shore	
Lobsters, 2 lb cans, each	55	Mackerel, No. 2 Large	2 50
Fresh Cove and Spiced Oysters, ₱ can, 1 lb.	25	Mackerel, No. 3 ₱ lb.	20@10
Fresh Cove and Spiced Oysters, ₱ can, 2 lb.	40	White Fish, ₱ lb.	10
		Salmon, smoked, ₱ lb.	35
		Salmon, pickled, ₱ can	25
		Halibut, smoked ₱ lb.	25

FLOUR, MEAL, &c.

Extra Family, ₱ bbl.	$15 50	Corn Starch, ₱ paper	15
Extra Family, in bags	$3 30	Arrow Root, ₱ paper	20
Self raising, ₱ 12 lb bag	50	Hominy, ₱ lb	10
Fancy St. Louis		Indian Meal, ₱ bush.	1 50
Flour ₱ bbl.	$16 00	Oatmeal ₱ lb	10
		Buckwheat flour, ₱ lb	6
		Rye Flour ₱ lb	6

FRUITS, NUTS, DRIED FRUITS.

Apples ₱ lb.	10	Prunes (cating)	50
Almonds	50	Pecans	20
Raisins ₱ box	300@350	Citron	30
Peaches	12@15	Filberts	20
Pineapples	60	Currants	18
Peanuts ₱ qt.	20	Dates	20
Dried cherries ₱ lb	30	Figs	30 to 40
Prunes (cooking) ₱ lb	25	Citrons ₱ lb	50
Dried Blackberries ₱ lb	25	Pared Peaches ₱ lb	35
	20	Dried Plums, ₱	15@25

FRUITS—GREEN, CANNED; OILS, JELLIES, ETC.

Apples ₱ bl peck	200@300	Assorted Jellies in	
Lemons	30	tumblers, each	35
Green corn, Winslow's	20	Pickles, in jars, 30, 50	60@80
Tomatoes, 2 ₱ cans	40	Ketchup, ₱ bottle	25@30
Blackberries,	30	Sauces,	50, 60, 75@$1 00
Raspberries,	30	Chutney, ₱ bottle	40@50
Sardines, ₱ box	40	Tomatoes 2 ₱ cans	40
"	50	Corn, ₱ can	40
Peaches, 3 ₱ cans	60	Chow-chow ₱ pint	50
Boneless Sardines	70	bottle	75

GROCERIES.

Coffee, choice Rio ₱ lb	30	Imperial	2 00@2 50
Rio, fair to good	30	Chocolate ₱ lb	30
Java	40	Candles, star ₱ lb	20
Mocha	40	" sperm	50
African ₱ lb	30	Lard ₱ lb	20
Sugar, brown ₱ lb	12½	Rice, Island ₱ lb	15
" light	15@18	Rice, Carolina	15
" crush'd and powd'd	18	Salt, table ₱ box	200
Molasses, Porto Rico ₱ gal	90	Salt, Liverpool ₱ lb	2½
New Orleans	1 10	Starch ₱ lb	12@ 15
Cuba	90	Do, American	25
Syrup, cooking	90	Do, Corn	25
Tea, Oolong, ₱ lb.	1 00@1 50	Syrups, Stewart's	1 75
Young Hyson	1 50	" Ginger Snap	1 75
" Extra	1 50@1 75	" Imperial	1 50
Extra light	1 75@2 00	" Lemon ₱ lb	1 50
Young Hyson	1 50@2 00	Shaker corn, ₱ lb	25
Fungial	1 40		

MEATS—FRESH.

Sirloin, ex cut ₱ lb.	20@25	Leg of Mutton, ₱ lb	15
Rib Roast, do ₱ lb.	20@25	Fore Quarter, ₱ lb.	10@12
Round Steak, do ₱ lb.	20	Veal Cutlets, ex cut	25
Chuck Rib, ₱ lb	12@15	do do	20
Cross Rib, ₱ lb	10@12	Veal, ₱ lb	12@15
Plate and Navel	12	Stewing Veal, ₱ lb	12@15
Liver ₱ lb	15	Kidneys, each	10@15
Tongue, ₱ lb	15	Sweet Breads, ₱ lb	25
Pork, ₱ lb	15	Sausage, ₱ lb	15
Shoulder, ₱ lb	12	Sausage, ₱ lb, prepared	20
Spare Ribs, ₱ lb	12@15	Calves heads, each	15@20
Liver Pudding, ₱ lb	15		

MEATS—SALT, SMOKED, ETC.

Dried Beef, ₱ lb	25	Tongues, smoked,	75
Breakfast bacon	20	" red, each	75
Hams	20	Sausage, ₱ lb	20
Shoulders	15	Pigs feet, ₱ set	25@35
Shoulder, sacked	15	Corned Beef, ₱ lb	15 to 20
Corned Beef	10 to 15	Sliced Ham, ₱ lb	25
Hogsh'd cheese, ₱ lb	15		

POULTRY AND GAME.

Dressed Chickens, ₱ pair	75@$1 00	Live Chickens, ₱ pair	50@$1 00
Turkeys, ₱ lb	25	Squirrels ₱ pair	25@35
Dressed Ducks ₱ pair	75@$1 00	Partridges, ₱ pair	75@$1 00
Dressed Geese, each	75@$1 00	Rabbits ₱ pair	25

BUTTER OF A PURE QUALITY.

Cinnamon, ₱ lb	$1 00	Cayenne, ₱ lb	$1 00
Alspice, ₱ lb	60	Mace, ₱ lb	2 00
Ginger, ₱ lb	50	Cloves, ₱ lb	2 00
Cloves, ₱ lb	80	Mustard, ₱ lb	60
Pepper, ₱ lb	75	Jamaica Ginger, ₱ lb	75

SUNDRIES.

Brooms,

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1868.

TERMS:

One copy, per year.....$2 00
Two copies of twenty, per year.....1 50
One copy gratis to the getter-up of the club.

THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

Nations, by the condition and as a result of their vitality, grow as really as individual men grow. Hence it is as impossible in the youth of a nation to frame a Constitution in minute detail—which shall serve without change for all the stages of its progress—as to construct garments for the boy that shall suit him in his manhood. Only omniscience could prescribe the patterns, as the boy may turn out a master of jurisprudence, or only a master of the spade—a DANIEL LAMBERT or a TOM THUMB. This truth, almost a commonplace, was evidently present to the minds of the framers of our fundamental law. Hence they made provision for amendments to the Constitution, and in regard to the Judiciary, they abstained from details. In section first, of article third, they declared: "The judicial power of the United States shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior courts *as the Congress may, from time to time, ordain and establish.*" They also determined the jurisdiction, original and appellate, of those judges, but they settled neither their number, nor the rule by which their conflicting opinions should be prevented from gendering the most intolerable of all evils—the uncertainty of law. Both these measures were left to the legislation of Congress. Accordingly, the first Congress that assembled after the adoption of the Constitution, proceeded in a long and elaborate act to make the provisions required in their judgment to give effect to the high powers granted to the Supreme Court. Let it be noted that several particulars of the judicial system set up in that statue are no longer existent. They have been changed by the power which created them. One feature of that act *passed in* 1789 *under the administration of* WASHINGTON, is particularly worthy of being called to mind at the present time, in view of the legislation pending in Congress. The Supreme Court was made to consist of "the Chief Justice and five Associate Justices, *any four of whom shall be a quorum, &c.*" How effectually this single citation disposes of the clap-trap and flimsy declamation, spoken and printed, in regard to the proposed change in the constitution of our Supreme Court!

"Stand in the old paths"—"no reckless innovation"—are the cries raised by those admirable representatives of Conservatism, who have undertaken to champion the existing arrangement. It would be well for our Conservative friends to brush up their knowledge of American history, if only to give respectability to their principles.

We confess, to us the proposed change in our Judiciary system, by which the assent of two-thirds instead of one-half the Judges shall be required to set aside an act of Congress, appears to be sustained by arguments quite irresistible. The right of Congress to make the change is unquestionable. It is among the powers unavoidably vested in that body by the Constitution; has been already more than once exercised by it, as we have shown, and is now well buttressed by precedents. We can do little more than indicate two or three considerations which seem to us cogent in favor of the change.

In the first place we believe that the alteration will be accepted as a welcome relief by the judges themselves. Sensitiveness to the pains of responsibility is the almost ever present concomitant of a strong mind and a feeling heart—a combination which, we trust, will never be entirely wanting in a judge of our Supreme Court. Should one of those exceedingly complicated and knotty questions—for which the law is famous—come for decision before the Court, and the judges, after long deliberation and conference and consultation of authorities, find themselves unable to arrive at any view more decided than the outcome of a conflict of probabilities; or should they be conscious that strong partisan prejudices or strong personal feelings throughout the country—perhaps in themselves—were enlisted on the opposite sides of the subject; surely in this hypothetical case, which might easily be a real one, the Chief Justice of tender conscience and upright mind, neither would nor ought to be willing to issue a sentence in conflict with an act of Congress, unsustained by more than a bare majority of his brethren of the Bench. Another argument. The change proposed is in rigorous accordance with an important constitutional analogy. A bill passed by Congress, which happens to be vetoed by the President, becomes a law in spite of the veto, on being re-enacted by the voices of two-thirds of both Houses. The fundamental principle of our Government is the supremacy of the people's will. The Presidential veto may answer an excellent purpose in arresting, or preventing hasty legislation. If, after the pause enforced by the veto, two-thirds of both branches of the Legislature re-affirm their act, it becomes law because it is then, doubtless, the will of the people *deliberately* pronounced. Our Supreme, as well as all our Judges are merely the creatures of the popular will. We have, no doubt, in the main, been fortunate in our Supreme Judges, they having been mostly men of high character as well as competent legal learning. May they always be so! But can anything be more inconsistent with the spirit of our institutions than that a mere majority of the Court shall be able to set aside a solemn act of legislation, which has received the thoughtful consideration and assent of Congress? For let it be remembered that if Congress does not consist of wise and well informed men, it is because the people have not chosen that it shall be thus constituted. But we know as a matter of fact that our Congress always is composed, in large measure, of our best men. The Lower House and especially the Senate are never without many lawyers—not a few of them quite as pure in character, as lofty in aim, and as well grounded in the principles of law, as any of the Justices of the Supreme Court. The mere fact that those Justices differ in opinion about a question is evidence of the difficulty and doubtfulness of its decision. Is it asking too much that a question which such a body as our Congress, by a two-thirds vote, have decided in one way, if reversed, shall be reversed only by a two-thirds vote of the Supreme Court?

But there is an argument in favor of the change special to the present time and present circumstances. We should certainly neither advocate nor approve either a radical, or a superficial change in our judiciary system, merely to secure what we deemed an advantage in another direction. In view, however, of the considerations above specified and the inherent desirableness of a change, we have no hesitation in recognizing the possible effect of the change in preventing he overthrow of the Congressional policy of Reconstruction, and in securing a settlement of the South, which shall shield our country against the calamities that threaten it from that quarter, and our children from greater sufferings than we have endured.

In recollection of judicial history in the Old World, and *in our own land*, it is the merest romantic folly to continue to repeat and believe the soothing generalities we have so often heard about the sublime purity of our Supreme Judges. The judicial ermine did not prevent a score of jurists in England, whom we could mention, from becoming the agents of corrupt courts; nor did it prevent a great jurist in this country from uttering a dictum which filled all civilized men with horror and disgust.

Orators of brilliant fancy, both in Congress and out of it, have exerted their powers in suggesting imaginary cases in which the alteration proposed might prove disastrous to the rights of individuals and States. In reference to these flights we can only express our admiration for the ingenuity they display, and suggest that these gentlemen favor the world with an attempt to solve one or both of the following problems: "Whether a chimera vibrating *in vacuo* is able to generate second intentions?"—and, "if angels pass from one extreme to the other without going through *the middle?*" Should they desire still other exercises for their skill in devising imaginary cases and in solving them, we refer them to the memoirs of MARTINUS SCRIBLERUS.

THE PERSONALITY OF A NEWSPAPER.

In the second number of *Lippincott's Magazine*, a monthly of much merit, and more promise, we find some pleasant reminiscences of FITZ GREEN HALLECK. We learn that the poet sometimes talked paradoxes, at least, that he talked in a way to surprise and startle his hearers. On one occasion he was heard to say that Providence, who watches and controls the actions and affairs of men, must have been sleeping at his post when he allowed printing to be invented. However startling the remark may be, when we make it the subject of reflection, we understand that it is only the phraseology that seems new and strange, while the thought is old and, in a sense, true. All important and widely influential inventions may be advantageously discussed and their results appropriately stated in antitheses. The press is a fountain from which issue waters both sweet and bitter. Through it, law, liberty, religion and all good things put forth their influence and advance their cause. By the same potent agency, more and greater plagues than distressed Egypt, may be and sometimes are diffused. Truths and lies, poisons and their antidotes, are sent forth to the gratification of the good and the wise, of the wicked and the foolish. To the press COWPER addressed the words:

"Like Eden's dread probationary tree,
Knowledge of good and evil is from thee."

We did not, however, intend at this time to indulge in these generalities, but briefly to indicate one or two functions of the newspaper which are not universally recognized, or which, at least, are sometimes forgotten. Perhaps it would be more correct to say that they are not so much forgotten as that they fail to be seen or understood, from not being looked at from the right point of view.

It requires no violent stretch of the imagination to see the individual newspaper as a person, with head and heart, feet and hands. Possessing these organs, it (or he) may employ them in such a manner as to become the PAUL PRY of a community. He may go nosing about, spying one thing, hearing another, and smelling still another, with not one of which things he or the public has any business; and reporting all his discoveries, he becomes a nuisance, to abate which is the imperative duty of every decent man. With this inky puppy of letters we need not concern ourselves farther, as we are not aware that this city has ever been much troubled with his kind.

In conceiving of the worthy journal as having personality we must allow him respectable attributes, a good head and a manly heart. His sound understanding must be at once stimulated and regulated in its exercises by those feelings and sympathies without which intellect deserves no more respect than a steam engine. A heart made of brains as FONTENELLE's was said to be, is a mean organ, while affections and sensibilities uncontrolled by understanding may exhibit mere foolish good nature, or may even prove very mischievous. Nor must we deny him tolerable perceptive faculties and reasonably good powers of observation. And our disgust at the proceedings, and our contempt for the character of PAUL PRY, must not keep us from allowing him to use them. He ought to see everything which it is the interest of the public to know. The perfection which this power of seeing may attain, was well illustrated some years ago in England. A noted man of science was awoke during the night by what he felt certain was the shock of an earthquake; but on carefully examining "*The Times*" in the morning, and finding that that distinguished person made no mention of any such disturbance, he at once concluded that he had been mistaken. And so it turned out. We neither mean nor pretend that any rational being ought to invest this newspaper personage with infallibility in regard to matters of opinion or speculation. That would be a fatal mistake. In fact one chief object of this short article is to point out a function or duty of this personage, the performance or fulfillment of which would soon prove utterly disastrous to any pretensions he might have made to exemption from error in judgment. He is not, and under ridiculous penalties, may not pretend to be a PIO NONO. To play the prophet without inspiration, or the Pope, without the mantle of PETER and the investiture of the College of Cardinals, would be reprehensible and absurd. The duty or function to which we refer may be indicated as follows:

Of course unpopular opinions may sometimes have in him their only advocate. And he may occasionally be called upon to represent and give a degree of countenance to half truths, to opinions founded upon ungrudged impressions—or suspicions of facts not fully ascertained. When he makes his appearance in this capacity, his representative character ought to be recollected in his favor. It is now and then a matter of the utmost importance to the community that opinions not wholly proved, or partly resting on conjecture, or it may be only half true, shall gain utterance, and even a degree of championship. They are thus agitated and discussed, and great good may flow from the ventilation. Then, again, the public ought to remember that this person—a sort of embodiment of the minds, bodies, and activities of many individuals—stands forth as the representative or lieutenant of all the ranks and classes of which society consists. The public are bound to suppose him clothed with all the characteristics and personal dignities required to impart the utmost effect and impression to his words. He is a man of large possessions. He is a father of a family—blessed in that way almost as the patriarch JACOB; and yet the citizen of empty purse and the citizen of empty quiver are both entitled to look up to him as pledged and ready to render them all the aid which his position and office would lead them to expect.

These remarks borne in mind, will serve to explain or account for many things in the course of any energetic newspaper, which might appear eccentric or inexplicable.

PHILADELPHIA AND THE FREE RAILROAD LAW.

In an article on the Free Railroad Law at Harrisburg, the Philadelphia *North American* says:

It has been urged as an objection to a free railroad law, that it would allow lines to be built too near to existing roads, and where there was no occasion for them. Yet Mr. Allen, in his speech, insisted on a higher standard of qualification for revenue officers than now exists, and Mr. Fullerton, in his bill to that effect should be passed, it would be difficult to inaugurate the new system successfully and test the real power of competition of the present whisky tax.—*Correspondence Philadelphia Press.*

In other words, the whisky interest is too strong for the Government. Such a conclusion no doubt is readily reached by members of the whisky ring, the thieves in their employ and their apologists. Mr. MCCULLOCH timidly intimates, however, that "a higher standard of qualification for revenue officers than now exists" might enable the Government to hold its own against the ring. But small ground of hope is there of attaining "a higher standard of qualification" under the present administration of the department. Within the last few months—perhaps in the last week—appointments have been made to very responsible positions in the revenue service, which could have never been made after even a superficial inquiry into the qualifications of the applicants, if the appointing power was influenced by honest motives. It is a monstrous mockery to talk of "a higher standard of qualification" so long as men notoriously dishonest are preferred for the most responsible positions. It should be the first labor of Congress to render it impossible for any but thoroughly competent and perfectly honest persons to hold office in the revenue service. The qualifications, antecedents and fitness of applicants and of present occupants also of official positions, should be rigidly inquired into by a board of examiners. At all times should this be the rule; but at the present time the reasons in support of it are manifold. It being admitted that the explanation to the enormous whisky frauds is too low a standard of qualification on the part of revenue officers, the fact should lead to action on the part of Congress without another day's delay.

GEN. GRANT, it is reported, is opposed to the new Reconstruction law, because he thinks the work can be done under the old ones. Though a man to shrink from no responsibility, it belongs naturally to his character not to desire extraordinary power. Were he despotic or ambitious, he would wish to have the law passed, for it clothes him with little less than absolute power over reconstruction. And it is little less than remarkable how generally he is possess so much power, it can be safely confided to General GRANT. Thousands who do not coincide with the principle of the new bill, readily admit this. And if the South only knew what is good for themselves, they would not object to the proposed new law. In General GRANT's hands they will be safe. On his justice they can rely, and the wonder is the leading men in the South, of all parties, do not promptly accept the new law.

THE list of Committees of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania will be found in the proceedings of the Legislature, published on our first page. The Railroad Committee is composed of the following gentlemen: Messrs. WILSON, Chairman, FORD and MILLER, of Allegheny; WATT, ADAIRE, CLARK, KLECKNER, FOY, HOLGATE, STOKES and JOSEPHS, of Philadelphia; DUNCAN, of Venango; MCJUNKIN, of Butler; WELKER, of Somerset; JENKS, of Jefferson; STRANG, of Tioga; HERR, of Dauphin; REINOEHL, of Lancaster; PHILLIPS, of Chester; JONES, of Berks, and WESTBROOK, of Wayne.

IT is absolutely ludicrous to witness the attempts of the Democratic press to place Gen. GRANT in the wrong in connection with the War office imbroglio. For instance, the New York *World* maintains that, "if the Tenure of Office Bill is unconstitutional" Gen. GRANT should have refused to surrender the office to MR. STANTON. Now, the law not having been declared unconstitutional by any higher authority than the New York *World*, and its decision not being at present exactly binding on officers of the Government, Gen. GRANT chose to obey the law, and that appears to be just what is the matter.

THE seizure by the British authorities of the rattle-brained GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN, on the ground that he is a Fenian and his landing in England might in some way endanger the peace of the realm, will provoke a loud laugh on this side of the ocean. Most persons will at once conclude that if this is a sample of the Fenian business of which we are hearing so much and about which England is so greatly troubled, we on this side should cease to regard it with much seriousness. It is simply ridiculous that the vaporings of TRAIN should have arrested the slightest attention, least of all led to his arrest in England. The affair can eventuate in nothing that will not wear the proportions of a huge joke, and a sensation that will give TRAIN something to talk for the balance of his life.

The South Carolina Convention, now in session, has a colored majority of ten. The haughtiest of all the States is therefore completely at the mercy of a race who but lately were the slaves.

THE slaveholders of South Carolina, before the rebellion, were the most intolerant of all the South. They professed to believe in the divine right to oppress the negro. They boastad of the supremacy of the white though the least numerous race in the State, and gloried in the aristocracy of slaveholders to which they belonged. To perpetuate and extend the institution, of which these things were the outcome, this aristocracy undertook to break up the Union and establish a confederacy based on slavery. To-day a Convention, a majority of whose members are negroes, is in session, framing the fundamental law of South Carolina!

In an article reviewing the War Department imbroglio, the Boston *Advertiser* makes the following remarks touching the part Gen. GRANT has played:

"We shall hear little from those who were so ready to censure him for taking the vacated office and keeping it out of worse hands. The country is the gainer by the judicious reforms which he has introduced in the department during his brief term, while the political wisdom of his course is now too clear to be denied. Last summer he was charged with inflicting a blow upon the Republican, but today it is the Democratic party which feels that it has been suffering at his hands for months past. This quiet perseverance in his own view of the right course, trusting to the event for vindication, is a pleasing phenomenon in our politics, and of late an unusual one."

A French Reader and Some Things Found In It.

The book to which we refer is the production of a gentleman whose name is Magill, and who is a sub-master in the Boston Latin School. It contains "grammatical exercises progressively arranged, familiar conversations on various subjects, and selections for reading and declamation, together with explanatory notes to the author's grammar, and an adequate dictionary." The book strikes us as having been prepared with much pains and skill, and as being unusually well adapted to the wants of students in the beautiful language of France. Turning over its leaves, we stumbled upon one extract which seems to us so useful for edification that we translate it for our readers' benefit. The "piece" is entitled the Doctor and the Quack; "A celebrated Dutch physician—Dr. Vauslehten, seated for long years in London—passing through Grosvenor Square, stopped to look at a quack, who, in a splendid carriage drawn by four horses, with many servants magnificently dressed, was attracting an immense crowd, and was distributing an enormous quantity of his drugs.

Telling him where he lived, Dr. V. begs the quack to visit him next morning at his house, which he does. "Sir," says the doctor, "yesterday I heard you publicly announce that you had excellent cures for all sorts of diseases; have you one for curiosity? Looking at you attentively I thought I recognized you, but I am unable to recollect where we have before met." "It will be very easy for me to satisfy you, sir. I served for many years in the house of my lady Waller where you attended assiduously. I was her chief footman, and left her three years ago to follow the trade in which you now see me engaged." "You rouse my curiosity more and more. How is it possible that the talent and skill acquired in three years have obtained the means of maintaining the brilliant position which you seem to me to possess, while I, practising my profession these forty years with the utmost diligence, and I venture to say with some reputation, can hardly keep up my small establishment!" "That I may be able to answer your question directly, sir, will you allow me to put a few queries to you?" "Willingly." "You live in one of the most frequented streets of this city. How many people, do you suppose, pass along it every day?" "That would be hard to tell, but, at a rough estimate, about ten thousand." "I accept your estimate as correct. And in those ten thousand who pass, how many do you take to be people of good sense? I do not mean clever people; for all the world swarms with them." "Ah! you embarrass me with your distinction between cleverness or intellect and good sense; if in the ten thousand there are one hundred of the latter sort, it is saying much." "Ah well! sir. You have yourself answered your question. The hundred persons of good sense form your practice—while the nine thousand and nine hundred form mine." The candor of the Quack was surely admirable; his impudence we cannot admire, it is so common nowadays.

We must give another extract less personally offensive in its possible application:

"At Amadan there was an academy of which the statutes, or regulations, were expressed in the following words: 'The academicians shall think much, write little, and speak the least possible.' Doctor Zeb, famous over all the East, learned that a place was vacant in this academy; he hastened to apply for it, but unfortunately arrived too late. The members were deeply vexed; they had granted to power what belonged only to merit. The President, at a loss for terms in which to express a refusal that caused the assembly to blush, had a cup fetched which he filled with water so exactly that a single drop would make it overflow. The erudite candidate for academic honors, understood from this emblematic action that there was no place there for him, and was sadly withdrawing, when he saw a rose leaf at his feet. At this sight he recovers courage; he picks up the rose leaf, and places it on the water in the cup, with such dainty dexterity that not a minim escapes. At this ingenious manœuvre all present clapped their hands, and the Doctor was received by acclamation among the silent academicians."

Should our next extract be found susceptible of a personal application, it is not our fault. Their improvement in History, or rather biography is our sole object in presenting it to our readers:

"Though Voltaire was secretly flattered by the visits from all parts of Europe which his reputation brought him—nevertheless all those who made the pilgrimage to Ferney, were not sure of seeing the divinity; or if he granted them one audience, they were not always tempted to ask for a second. The Abbe Coyer had undertaken the journey to Ferney and though uninvited, had made all his arrangements for spending some months there. One feels how little this plan would accord with the taste of Voltaire—who knew the Abbe Coyer as the dullest and most pedantic man of his century. However, he bore the first day's infliction with a sufficiently good grace; but on the next when the Abbe came to see him—the unrevenable Patriarch addressed him with the question: 'Do you know, Monsieur Abbe, the difference between you and Don Quixote? It is that Don Quixote took all the inns for castles (chateaux) while you take all the castles for inns.' The Abbe Coyer taken aback by this rude question, made up his packet and departed within twenty-four hours. On the morrow Voltaire not seeing him reappear, inquired about him. Told of his departure, he merely remarked, 'The good Abbe has left us very soon.'"

The following extract—which shall be our last—is very illustrative of a phase of character found in all countries. In England it is most frequently seen in the Kickleburys,—in France no rank or class is exempt from it. No doubt Victor Hugo himself has read the adventure of our Count with a degree of sympathy, and not without approving his appreciation of the claims of his native language:

"The Count de L. P. had received no other education than that of the children of Paris, and did not imagine that in any country people could be found ignorant of the French language. Being at Rome, he addressed a person passing by, and asked him in French—with much grace—the way to the Capitol; *no capisco*; (I do not understand,) replied the Italian. Sir, I do not ask you the way to *Capisco*, but the way to the Capitol. *No capisco*, was again the response. "In truth, they are well brought up in this country, they make sport of strangers," was the Count's meditation. He applied to another person, and puts on an extraordinary measure of politeness, as he asks the same question; but receives the same answer—*no capisco*. He then became impatient, and to punish the Romans for their impertinence, he swore never to go to the Capital and kept his word. On his return to Paris people delighted to ask him for an account of his travels—in which, still glowing with wrath against the insolence of the Italians, he never failed to insert the circumstance of his attempt to find the Capital.

(Published by Crosby and Ainsworth, Boston. Sold by Davis, Clarke & Co.)

CONTRACTION AND EXPANSION.

The amendment which the Senate made to the anti-contraction bill will be promptly concurred in by the House; and whether approved or vetoed by Mr. JOHNSON, it will become a law. The House bill merely suspended the power of the Secretary to contract; the Senate amendment repeals the section outright. It is said this action will be supplemented by providing for a reissue of greenbacks to the amount withdrawn by the Secretary during the past year, whereby the whole amount will be about four hundred millions. In favor of this measure a clear majority in both Houses of Congress is claimed. But whether this expectation be realized or disappointed, the anti-contraction law will prove of the highest interest, and is certain to work important results. The application of the surplus in the Treasury to the payment of interest-bearing indebtedness, would work a saving of $3,500,000 a year, and the result of the purchase of bonds, in competition with capitalists, at the rate of four millions a month, would be an appreciation of our securities—an appreciation that would be followed by a corresponding influence on greenbacks. The total contraction of legal tenders and currency in the last two years has been $176,450,457, entailing consequences which may be seen in our present financial condition. It is gratifying to know that this thing is stopped at last. In the Senate but four votes were recorded against it. In the House the vote was almost as overwhelming.

GEN. GRANT'S surrender of the office of Secretary of War *ad interim*, obedience to the Senate of the United States and the laws of Congress, and in defiance of the known desire of his Commander-in-Chief, that he should hold them by military force in defiance of the civil power, is one of the most admirable examples of the subordination of the military to the civil power which the history of America or of the world affords.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

We quite agree with all that is implied and all that is expressed in the above paragraph from the New York *Tribune*. The incident alluded to is another instance added to the many already known in the career of General GRANT, which remind every intelligent reader of the Father of his Country—of WASHINGTON, the good and the great. The qualities of mind and heart which kept WASHINGTON calm and unperturbed, in prosperity as in adversity, which enabled him, though not unmoved, to seem unmoved amid the fearful trials of Valley Forge, and the known intrigues—almost successful—of his enemies; and which enabled him to disdain the suggestions of the Newburg letters, a temptation even to patriotic members of his staff, all these characteristics seem reproduced for our contemplation and encouragement in our General. Patriotism, unfeigned love of country is evidently ever active in him to animate and sustain. But no less obvious and unmistakable is his large, comprehensive, clear sighted common sense which sees at a glance all the relations of a subject, and points out the course of conduct which will commend itself to his countrymen as right and advantageous. GRANT may not be a man of genius; his achievements may not deserve to be characterized as brilliant in the sense in which the term is applied to the careers of some of the destroyers of mankind. There is nothing flashy, meteoric, or dazzling in GRANT, but for the power to see the only way through the breakers, to get rid of the knot which the shrewdest politicians confess their inability either to untie or to cut, for the clear sighted wisdom which can forget self in concern for the country, and for "the patience which is genius" commend us to General GRANT with his sense—"good sense which only is the gift of Heaven, and though so science fairly worth the seven."

THE Secretary of the Treasury, in his report, says on the new system of internal taxation, to be imported from it, the collection of so high a whisky tax with thorough honesty will require the adoption of a higher standard of qualification for revenue officers than now exists; and that, in addition to that effect should be passed, it would be difficult to inaugurate the new system successfully and test the real power of competition of the present whisky tax.—*Correspondence Philadelphia Press.*

In other words, the whisky interest is too strong for the Government. Such a conclusion no doubt is readily reached by members of the whisky ring, the thieves in their employ and their apologists. Mr. MCCULLOCH timidly intimates, however, that "a higher standard of qualification for revenue officers than now exists" might enable the Government to hold its own against the ring. But small ground of hope is there of attaining "a higher standard of qualification" under the present administration of the department. Within the last few months—perhaps in the last week—appointments have been made to very responsible positions in the revenue service, which could have never been made after even a superficial inquiry into the qualifications of the applicants, if the appointing power was influenced by honest motives. It is a monstrous mockery to talk of "a higher standard of qualification" so long as men notoriously dishonest are preferred for the most responsible positions. It should be the first labor of Congress to render it impossible for any but thoroughly competent and perfectly honest persons to hold office in the revenue service. The qualifications, antecedents and fitness of applicants and of present occupants also of official positions, should be rigidly inquired into by a board of examiners. At all times should this be the rule; but at the present time the reasons in support of it are manifold. It being admitted that the explanation to the enormous whisky frauds is too low a standard of qualification on the part of revenue officers, the fact should lead to action on the part of Congress without another day's delay.

GEN. GRANT, it is reported, is opposed to the new Reconstruction law, because he thinks the work can be done under the old ones. Though a man to shrink from no responsibility, it belongs naturally to his character not to desire extraordinary power. Were he despotic or ambitious, he would wish to have the law passed, for it clothes him with little less than absolute power over reconstruction. And it is little less than remarkable how generally he is possess so much power, it can be safely confided to General GRANT. Thousands who do not coincide with the principle of the new bill, readily admit this. And if the South only knew what is good for themselves, they would not object to the proposed new law. In General GRANT's hands they will be safe. On his justice they can rely, and the wonder is the leading men in the South, of all parties, do not promptly accept the new law.

THE List of Committees of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania will be found in the proceedings of the Legislature, published on our first page. The Railroad Committee is composed of the following gentlemen: Messrs. WILSON, Chairman, FORD and MILLER, of Allegheny; WATT, ADAIRE, CLARK, KLECKNER, FOY, HOLGATE, STOKES and JOSEPHS, of Philadelphia; DUNCAN, of Venango; MCJUNKIN, of Butler; WELKER, of Somerset; JENKS, of Jefferson; STRANG, of Tioga; HERR, of Dauphin; REINOEHL, of Lancaster; PHILLIPS, of Chester; JONES, of Berks, and WESTBROOK, of Wayne.

IT is absolutely ludicrous to witness the attempts of the Democratic press to place Gen. GRANT in the wrong in connection with the War office imbroglio. For instance, the New York *World* maintains that, "if the Tenure of Office Bill is unconstitutional" Gen. GRANT should have refused to surrender the office to MR. STANTON. Now, the law not having been declared unconstitutional by any higher authority than the New York *World*, and its decision not being at present exactly binding on officers of the Government, Gen. GRANT chose to obey the law, and that appears to be just what is the matter.

THE seizure by the British authorities of the rattle-brained GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN, on the ground that he is a Fenian and his landing in England might in some way endanger the peace of the realm, will provoke a loud laugh on this side of the ocean. Most persons will at once conclude that if this is a sample of the Fenian business of which we are hearing so much and about which England is so greatly troubled, we on this side should cease to regard it with much seriousness. It is simply ridiculous that the vaporings of TRAIN should have arrested the slightest attention, least of all led to his arrest in England. The affair can eventuate in nothing that will not wear the proportions of a huge joke, and a sensation that will give TRAIN something to talk for the balance of his life.

The South Carolina Convention, now in session, has a colored majority of ten. The haughtiest of all the States is therefore completely at the mercy of a race who but lately were the slaves.

THE slaveholders of South Carolina, before the rebellion, were the most intolerant of all the South. They professed to believe in the divine right to oppress the negro. They boastad of the supremacy of the white though the least numerous race in the State, and gloried in the aristocracy of slaveholders to which they belonged. To perpetuate and extend the institution, of which these things were the outcome, this aristocracy undertook to break up the Union and establish a confederacy based on slavery. To-day a Convention, a majority of whose members are negroes, is in session, framing the fundamental law of South Carolina!

In an article reviewing the War Department imbroglio, the Boston *Advertiser* makes the following remarks touching the part Gen. GRANT has played:

"We shall hear little from those who were so ready to censure him for taking the vacated office and keeping it out of worse hands. The country is the gainer by the judicious reforms which he has introduced in the department during his brief term, while the political wisdom of his course is now too clear to be denied. Last summer he was charged with inflicting a blow upon the Republican, but today it is the Democratic party which feels that it has been suffering at his hands for months past. This quiet perseverance in his own view of the right course, trusting to the event for vindication, is a pleasing phenomenon in our politics, and of late an unusual one."

A French Reader and Some Things Found In It.

The book to which we refer is the production of a gentleman whose name is Magill, and who is a sub-master in the Boston Latin School. It contains "grammatical exercises progressively arranged, familiar conversations on various subjects, and selections for reading and declamation, together with explanatory notes to the author's grammar, and an adequate dictionary." The book strikes us as having been prepared with much pains and skill, and as being unusually well adapted to the wants of students in the beautiful language of France. Turning over its leaves, we stumbled upon one extract which seems to us so useful for edification that we translate it for our readers' benefit. The "piece" is entitled the Doctor and the Quack; "A celebrated Dutch physician—Dr. Vauslehten, seated for long years in London—passing through Grosvenor Square, stopped to look at a quack, who, in a splendid carriage drawn by four horses, with many servants magnificently dressed, was attracting an immense crowd, and was distributing an enormous quantity of his drugs.

Telling him where he lived, Dr. V. begs the quack to visit him next morning at his house, which he does. "Sir," says the doctor, "yesterday I heard you publicly announce that you had excellent cures for all sorts of diseases; have you one for curiosity? Looking at you attentively I thought I recognized you, but I am unable to recollect where we have before met." "It will be very easy for me to satisfy you, sir. I served for many years in the house of my lady Waller where you attended assiduously. I was her chief footman, and left her three years ago to follow the trade in which you now see me engaged." "You rouse my curiosity more and more. How is it possible that the talent and skill acquired in three years have obtained the means of maintaining the brilliant position which you seem to me to possess, while I, practising my profession these forty years with the utmost diligence, and I venture to say with some reputation, can hardly keep up my small establishment!" "That I may be able to answer your question directly, sir, will you allow me to put a few queries to you?" "Willingly." "You live in one of the most frequented streets of this city. How many people, do you suppose, pass along it every day?" "That would be hard to tell, but, at a rough estimate, about ten thousand." "I accept your estimate as correct. And in those ten thousand who pass, how many do you take to be people of good sense? I do not mean clever people; for all the world swarms with them." "Ah! you embarrass me with your distinction between cleverness or intellect and good sense; if in the ten thousand there are one hundred of the latter sort, it is saying much." "Ah well! sir. You have yourself answered your question. The hundred persons of good sense form your practice—while the nine thousand and nine hundred form mine." The candor of the Quack was surely admirable; his impudence we cannot admire, it is so common nowadays.

We must give another extract less personally offensive in its possible application:

"At Amadan there was an academy of which the statutes, or regulations, were expressed in the following words: 'The academicians shall think much, write little, and speak the least possible.' Doctor Zeb, famous over all the East, learned that a place was vacant in this academy; he hastened to apply for it, but unfortunately arrived too late. The members were deeply vexed; they had granted to power what belonged only to merit. The President, at a loss for terms in which to express a refusal that caused the assembly to blush, had a cup fetched which he filled with water so exactly that a single drop would make it overflow. The erudite candidate for academic honors, understood from this emblematic action that there was no place there for him, and was sadly withdrawing, when he saw a rose leaf at his feet. At this sight he recovers courage; he picks up the rose leaf, and places it on the water in the cup, with such dainty dexterity that not a minim escapes. At this ingenious manœuvre all present clapped their hands, and the Doctor was received by acclamation among the silent academicians."

Should our next extract be found susceptible of a personal application, it is not our fault. Their improvement in History, or rather biography is our sole object in presenting it to our readers:

"Though Voltaire was secretly flattered by the visits from all parts of Europe which his reputation brought him—nevertheless all those who made the pilgrimage to Ferney, were not sure of seeing the divinity; or if he granted them one audience, they were not always tempted to ask for a second. The Abbe Coyer had undertaken the journey to Ferney and though uninvited, had made all his arrangements for spending some months there. One feels how little this plan would accord with the taste of Voltaire—who knew the Abbe Coyer as the dullest and most pedantic man of his century. However, he bore the first day's infliction with a sufficiently good grace; but on the next when the Abbe came to see him—the unrevenable Patriarch addressed him with the question: 'Do you know, Monsieur Abbe, the difference between you and Don Quixote? It is that Don Quixote took all the inns for castles (chateaux) while you take all the castles for inns.' The Abbe Coyer taken aback by this rude question, made up his packet and departed within twenty-four hours. On the morrow Voltaire not seeing him reappear, inquired about him. Told of his departure, he merely remarked, 'The good Abbe has left us very soon.'"

The following extract—which shall be our last—is very illustrative of a phase of character found in all countries. In England it is most frequently seen in the Kickleburys,—in France no rank or class is exempt from it. No doubt Victor Hugo himself has read the adventure of our Count with a degree of sympathy, and not without approving his appreciation of the claims of his native language:

"The Count de L. P. had received no other education than that of the children of Paris, and did not imagine that in any country people could be found ignorant of the French language. Being at Rome, he addressed a person passing by, and asked him in French—with much grace—the way to the Capitol; *no capisco*; (I do not understand,) replied the Italian. Sir, I do not ask you the way to *Capisco*, but the way to the Capitol. *No capisco*, was again the response. "In truth, they are well brought up in this country, they make sport of strangers," was the Count's meditation. He applied to another person, and puts on an extraordinary measure of politeness, as he asks the same question; but receives the same answer—*no capisco*. He then became impatient, and to punish the Romans for their impertinence, he swore never to go to the Capital and kept his word. On his return to Paris people delighted to ask him for an account of his travels—in which, still glowing with wrath against the insolence of the Italians, he never failed to insert the circumstance of his attempt to find the Capital.

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CONTRACTION AND EXPANSION.

The amendment which the Senate made to the anti-contraction bill will be promptly concurred in by the House; and whether approved or vetoed by Mr. JOHNSON, it will become a law. The House bill merely suspended the power of the Secretary to contract; the Senate amendment repeals the section outright. It is said this action will be supplemented by providing for a reissue of greenbacks to the amount withdrawn by the Secretary during the past year, whereby the whole amount will be about four hundred millions. In favor of this measure a clear majority in both Houses of Congress is claimed. But whether this expectation be realized or disappointed, the anti-contraction law will prove of the highest interest, and is certain to work important results. The application of the surplus in the Treasury to the payment of interest-bearing indebtedness, would work a saving of $3,500,000 a year, and the result of the purchase of bonds, in competition with capitalists, at the rate of four millions a month, would be an appreciation of our securities—an appreciation that would be followed by a corresponding influence on greenbacks. The total contraction of legal tenders and currency in the last two years has been $176,450,457, entailing consequences which may be seen in our present financial condition. It is gratifying to know that this thing is stopped at last. In the Senate but four votes were recorded against it. In the House the vote was almost as overwhelming.

GEN. GRANT'S surrender of the office of Secretary of War *ad interim*, obedience to the Senate of the United States and the laws of Congress, and in defiance of the known desire of his Commander-in-Chief, that he should hold them by military force in defiance of the civil power, is one of the most admirable examples of the subordination of the military to the civil power which the history of America or of the world affords.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

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